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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING observed in your last No. a paper on the culture of Onions, in which the author appears to me to have fallen into several mistakes, I beg leave to trouble you and the public, with a few remarks on the subject of that production.

Your correspondent observes, that "this practice, now so prevalent, of increasing the extent and diminishing the number of farms is far from being advantageous to the country at large." With respect to the practice being prevalent, I only remark, that the proprietor of a very large estate in the county of Down has adopted a plan, which will be very effectual in preventing farming on a large scale from becoming extremely fashionable. Farms of from thirty to fifty acres, have, within these few years past, been divided and subdivided into holdings of fifteen, ten, and even five acres. This plan is very generally reprobated, both on account of the injury which it is supposed the tenantry will sustain, and the pernicious consequences, which will ultimately be produced to the estate.

As of considerable authority on this subject, I shall take the liberty of making a few extracts from the Farmer's Letters.

"Strange, as it must appear, that the error of subdividing land into small portions, has not long since been corrected; it is still more extraordinary that there are several gentlemen in the north of this kingdom, who, at this very period are dividing and subdividing farms already too small, even farms of thirty or forty acres; and this not altogether to accommodate manufacturers, but a set of poor cottagers, who, occupying six, eight, or ten acres, will call themselves farmers; but who, with propriety, ought to be the farmer's labourers. What can be those gentlemen's motives for this division of their estates into such small portions, I cannot conceive.

"I have indeed heard, that the preposterous motive of encreasing the number of 40*s.* freeholders, has actuated some gentlemen to divide their estates in this manner. But I cannot bring myself to believe, that any gentleman possessed of a liberal mind, can be governed by so detestable a principle, as to wish to influence, and subject to his controul, a set of poor people, whose whole property does not amount to five pounds; or to prefer a tenantry composed of beggars to a wealthy and independent yeomanry. To me it appears clear as noon-day, that one hundred acres of land occupied by ten or fifteen families, would not give, perhaps, much more than one half of the usual products of the soil, which the same quantity of land in the hands of one, or at most two regularly bred farmers, would produce.

"But, Mr. Speculator, what mode of supporting the labouring poor, so proper for this country, as letting them farm small portions of land, by which they may obtain their provisions at a cheap rate, and may, at such times as their farms do not require their attention, employ themselves in some manufacture, or labouring for some gentleman or farmer?" "I answer, from the best observations and from all the inquiries I could possibly make, that the occupiers of small pieces of land do not, in general, procure their food at so low a price as they could, on an average of seasons, purchase it for in the market. It is very commonly, I may say almost universally the case, that the farmers of a few acres, if held at such high rents as are frequently promised for small pieces of land, nay,

even at such rents as the farmer of forty acres could afford to pay for the like, that they are perhaps every season compelled to dispose of the greater part of the produce of their farms, immediately after harvest, and to enable them to discharge their rents. Thus we generally find them selling the food raised from their little farms, at that season, which is almost universally the cheapest throughout the year, and with much struggling and difficulty, purchasing the whole of their sustenance in the summer months, when it often bears nearly double the price. Therefore, every attentive observer must perceive, that the very small farms do not promote the interest of either the landlord or tenant."

"There is no arable land in the kingdom of Ireland, so unprofitably employed, nor so abominably managed as the generality of the very small farms in the North; the causes are evident; the owners can never command horses, but at very high expenses, and, at such times only as the farmers have not employment for their cattle on their own grounds; also, the trifling labour which they bestow on their spots of land, is generally a few hours stolen from their usual and regular vocations, and they seldom can command cash to enable them to manure, fence, or in any manner improve their farms."

LETTER II.

A judicious friend has favoured me with the following observations on this subject.

"During the dear summer of 1800, I was a member of the Lisburn committee, which was appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the state of the poor, and issuing tickets to such as were found to be proper objects, in order that they might be supplied with provisions at a moderate price. During the season of scarcity upwards of 20,000*l.* worth of provisions (chiefly oaten meal) were sold to the poor inhabitants of a district of country, more than twelve miles in diameter. On inquiry, I uniformly found, that those trade's people and manufacturers who occupied *small* farms, were in greater distress than those who resided in Lisburn, or even than the Cotters who occupied a house and garden in the country. No circumstance that I recollect, has contributed more to increase the size of farms than the miserable failure of the crop among the small farmers that year. Many of them were obliged to sell their little farms, in order to discharge the debts they had contracted for provisions, which were bought up at a low price by their neighbours, the substantial farmers. Many of them emigrated to America, and others retired into the neighbouring towns, where they enjoy a degree of comfort superior to what they ever experienced in the country. Indeed I have no doubt, that at this day, the trade's people and manufacturers who reside in towns and villages (as is generally the case in England) are more comfortably lodged, clothed and fed, than the same classes who occupy those four or five acres of land in the country."

Your Correspondent informs us, that the improvements which have been introduced, can be adopted only by those, who hold extensive farms. An argument this, surely in favour of extensive cultivation. For if much labour and time be saved by the newly invented machines, this proves the great advantage of farming on an extensive scale. It is well known, that thus, work can be done at a much less expense, and that the same farming utensils which are required for twelve acres would be sufficient for a farm of thirty or even forty acres. So that it must be much more advantageous to farm on a large than on a small scale.

The danger which your Correspondent apprehends from the co-operation of the great landholders, is perfectly ideal. Admitting that the lands in the neighbourhood of a large town were in the possession of a few individuals, can it be supposed that they would be able to regulate the market? Is a large town supplied only from the adjacent farms? Will not farmers take their produce to a considerable distance, or will not purchasers go to a distant market, when it may be had cheaper; and thus, will not the market be immediately brought to its proper level? It would require, Sir, the co-operation of a thousand farmers to make any

considerable permanent impression on the market of Belfast.

If large farms be not always best tilled, it is not owing to the mere circumstance of their being large. An extensive farmer has it certainly in his power to cultivate in superior style.

An objection to the general cultivation of onions is, the want of a market. In Dublin, Belfast, or other large towns, there may be a good market for a few cultivators; but were the culture to become general, it is plain, that the market would be overstocked, and the farmer disappointed.

Your Correspondent recommends the saving of the onion seed. May I be permitted to inquire how this is to be done. I have known it attempted but the seed never fully ripened; the seed of the Welsh onion may indeed be saved; but I believe that of the Strasburgh does not come to perfection in this country. If there be any method of saving it, I imagine it is not generally known: and therefore if your friend S. T. can communicate it, he will confer a favour not only on me, but on the public. A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON WAR.

"Styled noble science! in the number rank'd,
Of fair reputed callings, that press round
The door of active life, and court the choice
Of doubtful youth; among the paths that lead
To fame's high fane, among the muses' themes
Placed eminent in front."

FAWCETT'S CIVILIZED WAR.

WAR is an unnatural diseased state of society, and when it once gets deeply seated in the political constitution of a state, like disease in the human body, it gives a wrong direction to all its energies, and by the corruption of its best and most vital parts, endangers the welfare of the entire system. It is the fever of nations, and ranks among its attendant symptoms, *coma*, *delirium*, &c. and often ends in death. Of its mighty evils, of the miseries and sufferings present and remote, which it brings upon its immediate actors as well as on their innumerable relatives and connections, it is not my design to speak at present. These would fill a volume.

As the powers of the human mind are inadequate to take in a too extensive field of view, it is better in considering an important subject to confine our attention to one or two bearings at a time, that we may not be lost in the immensity of the prospect. At present I design to confine myself to a consideration of the evils which war introduces into private life, even among the classes not professedly military, and especially as the subject is interwoven with the motives which influence the education of youth, and in the adoption of parental plans for the future pursuits in life of their children.

We have now been at war for nearly sixteen years, with the short intermission of a hollow truce. Our habits of thinking and of acting have become military. The plans of many for themselves and their children, have been so formed on a war-system, that much temporary, and in many instances, permanent inconvenience would arise from a return to a peace establishment. This diseased state, was clearly exemplified during the short peace of 1802, when many of our military men had a prospect of returning into private life. What lamentations did we then hear, what inconveniences, real and affected, were then continually repeated! Unhappily for the general interests of mankind, there was but a short time for these complaints to be expressed; the nations again relapsed into the unnatural state of warfare, and individuals returned to reap private emolument from national calamities.

From the sample which we have already seen, we may form some idea of what would take place on a general peace, that would promise durability; and surely we may expect that peace must take place: the ardent philanthropist wishes for its speedy accomplishment, and the cold-blooded politician *calculates* that it must take place, at some period or other. To what eventual inconveniences are parents dooming their chil-

dren, who in their plans for them, act as if they thought *war* would be perpetual? The fact is, the inhabitants of these countries are generally a calculating people; they were growing rich in commerce, and speculative as to the modes of gain; unfortunately they have turned this calculating commercial disposition into forming plans for getting their sons provided for in different lines of military services, not excepting fitting out an additional number as surgeons for the army and navy. Hitherto war has afforded parents an easy mode of relieving themselves from parental cares; "and many sons foredoomed their fathers' souls to cross," have been thus disposed of and sent unfledged into the world, to have their morals further corrupted by a military life; but the speculation may not always succeed. I dread to contemplate on the return of the many dissipated characters, which a peace would bring back into the bosom of families. But here lies the great evil, many are interested in the continuance of war, and lift up their voice against the blessings of peace.

The general good and self-interest pull different ways, and the public weal is disregarded amidst interested clamours, and private motives. I lament over my country, and regret to behold so general a diffusion of a military spirit, and to perceive it to enter so generally into domestic calculations. I forbear at present to say much on the immoral tendency of war, but have principally directed attention to the impolicy of acting on military maxims, as connected with plans for the putting forward our youth into active life. I am sensible my opinions are not popular, and probably they may not be well received. It is likely also they are not in unison, with the sentiments of many immediately connected with your work, but I put in my claim to be heard, for I think it is a privilege due to all who write with modesty, and without unwarrantable assurance. "Even truths most bitter, may be told without bitterness." Indulgence is due to a writer who uses his well intended efforts, to stop an overwhelming torrent, which, in his estimation is in danger of proving destructive to public morals. Such he considers are the present military schemes entertained by persons in private life. And though this manner of treating the subject may thwart many powerful and fashionable prejudices, yet it surely is allowable in a periodical work, which it is hoped may descend with some reputation to posterity, to advance sentiments, which, although now despised, may have due place hereafter, when the temporary infatuation of the present times is forgotten. It should be your aim not to court popularity, at the expense of real usefulness, or future reputation; but by rising above prevailing errors, however wide-spreading, lay a solid foundation for real usefulness: by so acting, a more lasting reputation will be acquired, than by compliances to gain present popularity. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ESSAY ON BALLAD COMPOSITION, WITH POETICAL EXAMPLES.

THE human mind in its most wild and uncultivated state, where neither an intercourse with well-regulated society could give it polish, nor a knowledge of the finer arts extend its force, has nevertheless been found to possess, in many instances, a delicacy of thought and tenderness of expression, which when exercised upon such external objects as pleased it, or such mental operations as it loved to dwell on, have both interested and surprized the more enlightened classes of mankind. The song of "The Laplander," the dirge of the "American Indian," and the "Simple Chaunt of the African," have been heard with pleasure in Europe, and it is from possessing the same qualities, *simplicity* and *tenderness*, that ancient ballads, a species of poetry invented in an age when learning and taste were scarcely reviving, and composed by men whose untutored muse never felt the plastic impression of education, have been so long and so universally pleasing that several modern writers of considerable merit have composed Ballad pieces, in which thay have imitated the style, the idioms and even the

metre of these ancient legends, and have thus established their hitherto doubtful claims in the ranks of poetical composition. Thus the pathos and simplicity of ancient legendary tales is beautifully delineated in the "Hermit," by Goldsmith; "The Hermit of Warkworth," by Percy, and "Rosabelle," by Scot.

The subjects of Ancient Ballads, though numerous, may generally be comprized under three heads, the legendary, the historical, and the elegiac; of these, the first is esteemed the most ancient; it contains such songs as commemorate extraordinary tournaments, the feats of imaginary heroes or traditions of popular superstition. Pieces of this description seem not to have derived much ornament from music, or to have depended on it for success; accompanied by airs so unaffecting as to convey little melody to the ear, they were usually more calculated to keep alive the interest of their auditors by incident than by modulation of voice, and from hence it is that in "Gill Morrice," "The English Lord in Spain," and "The Wandering Lady," the tunes are unvaried and monotonous, the incidents beautiful and affecting.

The following tale taken from Irish tradition is deferentiy submitted as an example of the legendary; farther illustrations of the historical and elegiac, shall, if acceptable, be offered at some future period.

KINNELM AND EVA.

AN IRISH TALE.

WOODSTOCK!* pride of Irish story,
Raising high its tower'd head,
Still proclaims its former glory,
Near old Barrow's winding bed.

Through those halls where winds low sighing,
Mourn the havoc made by time;
Once the bard, with fingers flying,
Swept th' Escreen with martial rhyme.

Oft within those dark recesses,
Perish'd many a chief of old,
And this bloodstain'd wall confesses,
Horrors human tongue ne'er told.

Woodstock's lord once lov'd a fair one,
And besought her to his arms;
Heiress to a neighbouring baron,
Bless'd with beauty's softest charms.

But her sire had pledg'd his daughter,
To a gentle knight hard by,
Who with tender love had sought her,
Call'd Sir Kennelm of Athy.

Vengeful thoughts seiz'd Woodstock's bosom,
When denied the blooming maid,
Yet to none did he disclose 'em,
But his plot in secret laid.

Straight he made him preparation,
Solemn tournay to proclaim,
And forthwith sent invitation,
To many a noble knight and dame,

To partake at Woodstock hall,
Pomp and masque and pageant gay,
All within the castle wall,
On St. John's high holiday.

Gladsome rose the festive morn,
Rob'd in cloudless golden light;
Loudly blew the bugle horn,
Banners grac'd the castle's height.

And many a damsel, passing fair,
Deck'd in costly rich array,
And many a noble from afar,
Pass'd through Woodstock's gates that day.

There the youth of Monaghallen,
In their Gallow-gloughs† were seen,
And the maids of fair Dunsallin,
Clad in robes of native green.

Oh! who is he, whose red-rose cheek,
Blooms high in health and beauty's pride,
Whose blue eyes love's soft language speak,
To the fair lady by his side?

'Tis Kinnelm, flower of chivalry,
And Eva with the golden hair,
Of Rheban's youth the bravest he,
And she of Curagh's maids most fair.

Feast and dance their joys imparting,
Gift with mirth the splendid scene,
Till each at midnight hour departing,
Hied them o'er the distant green.

Kinnelm, quoth Lord Woodstock, stay thee
With thy lady here this night,
False Minulta‖ may betray thee,
Long he owes thee deadly spite.

Much I thank thee courteous baron,
Though *my* heart ne'er felt dismay,

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*Woodstock Castle, a noble ruin situated on the banks of the river Barrow, about a mile from Athy, is still remarkable for a curious Chimney-piece in good preservation, adorned with curious figures in bass-relief.

†The Escreen was an Irish martial air, every stanza of which was commenced by a single voice, and terminated with a full chorus. It is still sung round garlands and bonfires on the Eve of June, by the peasantry of Connaught.

‡ Gallow-glough or (more properly) Gallow-glass, was a part of the habit of the ancient Irish.

§ Minulta, a turbulent Irish chieftain whose estate was forfeited and conferred on a younger branch of the Fitzgerald family.

Still to ease this trembling fair one,
Here beneath thy roof I'll stay.

Sad and dismal was the hour,
Darker frown'd the leaden gloom,
When yielding to a villain's power
Kinnelm seal'd his final doom.

From that fatal moment never,
Eva to her friends return'd,
Mystic was her fate for ever,
Long the hapless maid they mourn'd.

But upon the seventh morn,
Kinnelm's floating corpse was found,
Down the river's current borne,
Pierc'd with many a ghastly wound.

Near the river stands a mound,
O'er it bending willows wave,
Water lilies spring around,
And this I've heard is Kinnelm's grave.

And still the Banshee § mourning here,
Loves to raise her plaintive song,
When each swift revolving year,
Brings the feast of good St. John.

Woodstock once the pride of story,
Low is now thy tower'd head,
Vanish'd all thy ancient glory,
By old Barrow's winding bed. L.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A NOCTURNAL SCENE.

THE last faint gleam of the setting sun, was fading on the brow of *Tully*, as I left my solitary cottage, to walk with contemplation on the green banks of the river Bann. Glimmering twilight appeared, and the western hills were lost in haze. Night soon succeeded, seated on her ebon throne; her long extended arms spread a sable veil over the skies of Erin. The eye of evening was still unclosed in the west, for now fierce Leo ruled, beneath whose reign, the veil of night is of a lighter hue, than when Aquarius inundates the world. I cast my eyes to the east, but Tully's* summit was closely shrouded in a misty cloud. Tolnabinion* shed moist vapours from her furzy locks, and Massah's* heath-clad top, was dark to view. The warbling birds, had sung their farewell to the parting day. Silence assumed her arbitrary reign, and waved her sceptre o'er a slumbering world. These only were disturbers of her peace....The night-rail chaunting her discordant song, and the loud murmurs of the falling stream, reluctant wandering from its parent hill. The winds themselves, obeyed her awful sway, the breeze was hushed in fair Glenone's groves, or sighed its last in Rosegift's peaceful shades.

I wandered on, regardless where I strayed, I felt the calm delights of solitude, which many wish for, but too few enjoy. The pale moon rose in majesty divine, to light my footsteps, and direct my way; from Stabin's* heights she shone upon my path; her silver beams embraced the surface of the crystal Bann, and scattered lustrous pearls on its streams. While thus I viewed the imperial queen of night, ascend in glory up the eastern skies, a distant noise disturbed the silence of that tranquil hour; the long grass rustled; still the breeze was hushed, yet something seemed to intercept my way; at length assisted by the lunar rays, I plainly saw a female form advance with settled sadness seated on her brow; 'twas fair Lewina, maid of lovely grace; but sorrow's tears had washed that grace away; yet still her form was like a ridge of snow, that long had bleached upon some Alpine height; the rose was blasted where it long had bloomed; its withered beauties still enriched her cheeks; but ah! how changed from what it once had been! She started wildly when she me espied, thinking the busy world had gone to rest, nor once imagined I should meet her there!

Fear not, Lewina, hastily I said, misfortune's frowns already are severe; I wander not to multiply your fears; but whither goes Lewina at this hour?

"I go" she answered "to yon ozier bowers, for Lindor's shade I hope will meet me there." She passed along, nor questions asked I more. Her white robe wet with dew, hung negligently o'er her decent form, her auburn locks brushed off the dew-drops from the flowery plain; the new-born tear, sad child of anguish,

§ Bhan-shee, corrupted from Bhan-tea (or woman of the family) is an imaginary spirit, which by nocturnal moans and lamentations, is supposed to forebode the deaths that occur in particular families.

* Hills lying to the north and north-east of Coleraine.

stole from her blue eyes: she swiftly fled to shun the haunts of men; but still I kept the hapless maid in view. Through many meadows of luxuriant grass, I watched the silent traveller, on her way. At length arriving where a dark wood frowned, I saw her lift her hands and eyes to heaven, and prostrate fall upon the humid turf; an ozier bower was wreathed above her head, that seemed to see, and mingle with her woes. I secretly retired behind the shade, to hear Lewina's plaintive tale of griefs, and watch her movements in that dreary hour.

"O Lindor! Lindor!" thus I heard her say, "if still your airy shade has power to rove, here in this well known place approach and comfort poor Lewina's soul. Here is the spot, dear youth, where first we met, these are the bowers, were witness to our loves; but now that love, the ocean broad divides; our faithful hearts shall never meet again: O yes, the day will come (a longed for day) a day, when death shall come a welcome guest, and bring me to your arms in blest abodes, where parent's hate cannot dissever love; where interest never dwells, nor fell dissention reigns, but faith and joy shall reign for evermore. Ill-fated youth! to shun a parent's scorn, you left the land to which you owed your birth, and sought another more unhappy land; you fled sweet youth! because you would not stay to hear my name degraded, or despised; your noble soul could not allow that wrong! you've often said when vengeance hovered near, and parents said they'd ever thee disown, that in Lewina all the virtues lived, and all was worth admiring, was her own; and if a life was worth enjoying here, 'twas only so, where her sweet presence graced. These words were poisoned arrows to the soul of your indignant father, for his hate to me was worse than lava to Sicilian flowers. You left Hibernia's ever-green retreats. You left the groves you many years admired; you left each dear companion of your youth, and poor Lewina dearest of them all."

"That thirst of glory due to Erin's sons, inspired thy soul and bade thee sail the main; but pledged your faith that when you would return, to make me happy as Great Britain's Queen. All hope is fled! alas! no beam of heaven-conveying joy, shall ever shine into this saddened breast. The sun of pleasure's ever set from me, its gladdening rays shall never more be mine! you sailed with Britain's undivided sons, when through the Atlantic's billowy waves they bore their dreadful thunder to the Hispanian shores. As when the orb of day, (his journey done) departs in glory from a crimson sky; so dearest Lindor did thy soul depart, and left a deep stained crimson field behind; there didst thou, like the setting sun, retire, but set, to never dawn on me again. Alas! how darkened is my night of woes; the gloom rests sadly on my drooping heart. To me nor suns nor seasons shall bring joy; nor morn nor even, fragrant field or flower, nor warbling minstrels on their native boughs, nor aught that beauty's hand, or nature gives; my fluttering soul will quickly take its flight, and leave a world wherein no comfort dwells."

"On Lusitania's lately blood-stained fields, your body rests within a narrow grave; near Tagus' streams thy dwelling place, shall be, when lost Lewina sleeps on Banna's side; this self-same spot that knew our loves sincere, shall be the place, I wish to lay my head, and here the swains and maids in plaintive strains, shall sing of Lindor and Lewina's woes. The voice of Echo in these shades shall dwell, and answer sorrow's melancholy song: a tributary, sadly pensive strain, which sympathetic *future* bards, shall sing, to permanize, our undelighting tale. Without a stone to mark thy deeds to fame, your undistinguished grave shall ever be; while less deserving, less true noble youths shall have their virtues carefully preserved by monumental time-defying domes....the latest vanity of human pride. Alas! the flowers of hope were blasted soon! Misfortune's breath has withered all their sweets, and to the root the gentle plant decays. Since hope survives no more; since joy is fled; farewell thou world of anguish, grief, and care; 'tis hard to wander through eternal gloom, for

all is darkness, wheresoe'er I go, and night itself can blacken not the same; but when this soul, that flutters to be free, shall leave behind this cumbrous lead of earth, and rise on airy wings beyond the stars: then pale remembrance with her meagre face, and drooping pity hither shall repair, to sit as mourners near my silent home. Spontaneous here the spotless flowers shall spring, and pity's tears shall add nutritious juice. The village maids will make their garlands here, and say, these flowers so innocent and fair, rise from ill-fated, poor Lewina's grave."

She ceased, and sunk upon the dewy plain, the morning star looked down upon her woes. I started wildly from the mournful scene, and slowly measured back the steps I came: the pale blue eye of morn again appeared; the moon in sadness hid behind the hill, and day was young on all the neighbouring heights. The sun returned in majesty divine, and spread his lustre over fields and groves; but sweet Lewina never more returned, to banish sorrow from a parent's heart. S.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

If you think the following Account of Carrickfergus worthy a place in your Magazine, it is at your service..... In the Cyclopaedian Magazine of February last, a very abridged and somewhat imperfect account of Carrickfergus written by me appeared; in this account some errors which were in the former are corrected, and the whole much enlarged.

S.M.S.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, &c. OF CARRICKFERGUS.

CARRICKFERGUS (anciently called *Dunoobarky*, from *Dun*, a fortress, and *sober*, strong or powerful; afterwards called *Knockfergus*) is situated on the north side of that large and commodious bay, to which it gives its name, in the county of Antrim, nine miles N.E. of Belfast, and eighty-eight of Dublin; was founded by Fergus the first, king of Scotland, about 320 years before Christ*.

It does not, however, appear to have become a place of much importance till the arrival of the English, about the year 1178, when Hugh de Lacy founded the castle; placing a strong garrison to awe the adjacent country.

The town is pleasantly situated along the shore, and has a thriving appearance, many of the best houses having been built within these few years; the houses are built mostly of stone, commonly two or three stories high, within the walls; except the main street, all the others are narrow, and though tolerably well paved are usually kept dirty.

The parts without the walls are called the Irish and Scotch quarters; they contain a greater number of houses than the town, as may be seen from the following list taken November 12th 1808.

In the town, ...	214
Irish quarter, ...	160
Scotch quarter, ...	113
Total, ...	487†

Supposed number of Inhabitants, 3400.

In June, 1797, the number of dwelling houses in the town, &c. was 452, (increase, 35 houses.) The town was formerly a place of strength, encompassed with a wall and wet ditch, having four gates, some of which were in former times entered by draw-bridges: a great part of the walls is yet standing, and is flanked with bastions near twenty feet high. It does not, however, appear to have been capable of a long resistance at any time since the invention of artillery, being commanded by the adjacent country.

The Church is an old building, in the form of a cross‡, dedicated to

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* Fergus was afterwards lost in a storm coming from Scotland, with many of his nobles, in the 25th year of his Reign. Tradition says, his body was found on the beach near the town, and buried at Monkstown, a place about three miles W. of the town.

† No houses are in this list but such as are inhabited.

‡ The Church formerly belonged to an abbey which stood near the place where the county of Antrim Court-house is built. The subterraneous passage by which it communicated, is still to be seen.

St. Nicholas, and in the north aisle, is an old monument of the Donegall family, ensigns, armorial, &c. The east window is of stained glass, which represents John baptizing in Jordan, and is pretty well executed; about thirty years ago, a steeple was erected, which has a clock and two bells. There is also a Presbyterian meeting-house; and about a mile from the town, a Catholic chapel. Here is a Free-school, supported by subscription, by the gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. There is also another lately established, and supported at the sole expense of E. D. Wilson, esq. the present venerable mayor.

In 1761, H. Gill, Alderman of the Corporation, bequeathed a house, garden, and 10*l.* per annum, to fourteen old bachelors, they being freemen of said corporation, and born therein. Likewise in 17.... —— Adair, esq. bequeathed 3*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* to nineteen old infirm freemen, resident in the aforesaid Corporation.

The Castle stands on a high rock that projects into the sea; but shelving towards the land. The entrance is between two towers, called half moons, mounting several pieces of cannon; and over the gateway is a portcullis, and apertures for throwing down stones, &c. In the yard is a small barrack, built a few years ago, and vaults called bomb-proof; but they do not deserve that name. In the inner yard are store houses, and a high square tower, the walls whereof are about nine feet thick; the lower part of which is bomb-proof, and serves as a magazine: the upper part was a few years ago made into a barrack, but is a very incommodious one.

In 1794, this Castle was thoroughly repaired, and twenty-seven pieces of ordnance mounted on the batteries, &c. Since that time it serves as the principal magazine to the northern district. Yet by some singular arrangement in military quarters, the garrison seldom exceeds fifty or sixty men from the town of Belfast or Antrim. The present governor is General David Dundas, with a salary of 500*l.* per annum.

At the head of the main street, is the county of Antrim Court-house, a handsome building; adjoining is the prison, both built about thirty years ago; at the foot of the same street are the Court-house and Gaol of the Corporation, old mean buildings not worthy of notice.

The Market-house stands near the centre of the town, and is a tolerable building, with three arches in front. Here is a market each Saturday, pretty well supplied with meat, and fish is plenty at most seasons: fairs are also held on the 12th of May, and 1st of November.

Within these few years a considerable sum has been expended on the quay; not without some use, for it has made it a more agreeable walk than formerly; but the sand-bank which chokes its entrance, is still suffered to remain unmolested; at present a coal brig or sloop, with a few fishing smacks are the most ever seen at it. Near the quay is the Custom-house, so very mean as not to deserve even the name of a public building, though built only a few years ago.

The fishery in the bay, employs a considerable number of hands; the fish caught are mostly flat-fish, cod, and ling; oysters are also caught in plenty, and of an excellent quality.

A great number of hands are employed here at the cotton business in all its branches, as spinning, weaving, &c. About twelve years ago only a few persons here wrought at the aforesaid business, who brought their work from Belfast and White-house; since that time it has almost entirely superseded the linen, as may be seen from the annexed list.

State of the weaving business, at present.

In the town.	*Irish-quarter.*	*Scotch-quarter.*
At linen.....5	at linen.....6	at linen.....4
muslin...2	muslin..10	muslin....3
calico..14	calico...83	*calico..27
cord.....3	total.....99	total.....34
total....24		grand total, 157

At present there are four cotton mills and two printfields, beside some smaller factories employed at the cotton business here. In the interior of the country, the soil is commonly a light mould, interspersed with turf bogs, and heath; lime-stone is also found in several places: near the town it is a heavy deep clay, very rich,

* Six of the calico looms are wrought by females.

I believe equal to any in Ireland. In the summer is made a considerable quantity of excellent cheese, said to equal the best from England. In the strand, opposite the Irish quarter, on digging a little below the surface, there is found plenty of peat, leaves of trees, and hazel nuts; these nuts contain a hard transparent stone, resembling crystal, but whether the kernels are really petrified into this state, as some imagine, or merely congealed matter, I must leave the naturalist to determine: near this is also found excellent alabaster. Near the town is plenty of pipe-clay, and formerly a great quantity was exported to England. Along the beach is plenty of sea-weed; it is commonly of that species from which kelp is made; and is likewise used by the farmers as a manure.

This town has been a Corporation since the reign of Elizabeth, who granted the charter to Arthur Chichester (then governor) This was afterwards confirmed by James I. with some additional privileges.* The government of the town, is vested in a Mayor, Recorder, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Burgesses, viz. 17 Aldermen, and 24 Burgesses.† The Mayor is elected annually, the first Monday after midsummer, and enters into office at Michaelmas. The Corporation has the privilege of making freemen at will; any person resident, and admitted by the old freemen, present in court, is entitled by the charter to be made; but this right is often overruled by the court. The number of freemen at present amounts to about 1100. For a long series of years, the Corporation was influenced by the Donegall family; but lately they have proved themselves independent by electing a Burgess, to serve in parliament. The present Mayor, has also been elected, by the independency.

The boundary of the Corporation is nearly square, being about four miles; the land whereof is vested in the Corporation; it is all let out except about 1500 acres, which is used as a common.

Near the town are several handsome villas, the most remarkable are Prospect, the seat of Henry C. Ellis, esq. Pausilypo, the seat of William D. Burleigh, esq. Sea-park, the seat of Thomas L. Stewart, esq. and Scout-bush, the seat of James Craig, esq. M. P. The latter gentleman's seat is built on an ancient military post, called the Scout-guard, and was formerly entered by draw-bridges; a deep trench that encompassed it is still to be seen. Adjoining is a craggy hill, called Knockogh, signifying a a low hill; the town is supposed to have taken a part of its former name from this place, viz. Knock, from the hill, and Fergus, after its founder.

(To be Continued.)

* Among other privileges formerly possessed was the following. The merchants had the liberty of importing all manner of merchandize, at one third part of the duties chargeable at any other part in the kingdom. This valuable privilege they sold to government about the year 1640, for the small sum of £.500? and their trade was instantly transferred to Belfast.

The Mayor can issue attachments against ships, or their cargoes, or against persons on board such ships, for the recovery of debts contracted any where: his jurisdiction extending from Beerhouse, county Down, to Fair Forelands, county of Antrim, the Bay of Bangor and pool of Garmoyle excepted. The water bailiff of the town, is the officer who puts these attachments in execution. The Mayor also claims salvage of all wreck found within his jurisdiction, on the coast.

† The Mayor is elected from the Aldermen; the Sheriffs from the Burgesses. The Aldermen and Burgesses, are mostly non-resident, many of them without a foot of ground in the Corporation.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

OF THE MAGNET, AND ITS PRINCIPAL PHENOMENA.

OF all the phenomena exhibited to us by nature, magnetism, or the properties of the loadstone, may with justice be considered as the most extraordinary, as the causes of the effects produced by them, have occasioned the greatest difficulties to philosophers; for it must be confessed that notwithstanding all their attempts to explain them, we are as yet acquainted only with facts.

The magnet is a metallic stone, commonly of a greyish or blackish colour, compact and very heavy, and is usually found in iron mines. It affects no particular form, exhibits no external marks, to distinguish it from the meanest productions of the bowels of the earth. But its property of attracting or repelling iron, and of directing itself to the north, when at liberty to move, gives it a title to be ranked among the most singular objects of nature.

This stone, properly speaking, is merely an iron ore, but of that kind, which is called poor, because it contains only a small quantity of metal. Modern metallurgists, indeed, have been able to extract iron from it; but beside that it is difficult to be fused, it is so unproductive, that it would not pay for the expense of working it.

But it may be asked here, why is not every kind of iron ore magnetic? This is a question, to which in our opinion, no answer has ever been given. Formerly the loadstone was exceedingly rare. The name *magnes*, by which it was known both among the Greeks and Romans, seems to have originated in Magnesia, a province of Macedonia, where it was in great abundance, or which furnished the first magnets known.

But the loadstone has been since found in almost every region of the earth, and particularly in iron mines. The island of Elba,* so celebrated for its mines of that metal, wrought from the earliest ages, is said to furnish the largest and best magnets. The ancients were acquainted with no other property, than that which it has of attracting iron: but the moderns have discovered several others; such as its communication, direction, declination, and inclination, to which may be added its annual and daily variation.

Every person is acquainted with the attractive force which the magnet has upon iron. If filings of that metal be presented to a magnet, even at some distance, the filings will be seen to dart themselves toward the stone, and adhere to it. The case will be the same with any small or light bit of iron, as a needle. This experiment may be performed also in the following manner. Suspend a long iron needle in a state of equilibrium, by means of a silk thread, or rather on a point or pivot, so as to leave it at full liberty to move: present it to a magnet, at the distance of several inches, or even several feet, then if the magnet be endowed with proper force, you will see one end of the needle turn towards it, until it be as near to it as possible. If the needle float on water, on a small bit of cork, it will not only turn one of its ends to the magnet, but it will continue to approach, till it come in contact with it.

All these phenomena will take place, even if there be between the magnet and the needle, a plate of copper or glass, or a board, or any other body whatsoever, iron excepted; which proves that the magnetic virtue is not intercepted by any of these bodies, but the last.

EXPERIMENT I.

To find the poles of a magnet: If a magnet be immersed in iron filings, and then drawn out, it will be found covered over with them, but it will be observed, that there are two places, diametrically opposite to each other, where the filings are closer, and where the small oblong fragments stand, as it were upright, while in other places they lie flat. These are the poles, which are to be found in every magnet, and possess different and peculiar properties. One of these points is called the north pole, and the other the south, because if the magnet be freely suspended, the former will of itself turn to the north, and consequently the other will be directed to the south. When it is intended to perform experiments with a magnet, these two points must first be determined.

EXPERIMENT II.

Provide a magnet, and having determined its two poles, make it float on the water, by placing it on a piece of cork, of a sufficient size; if then you present to the north pole

*This island, formerly Ilva, is situated on the coast of Italy, nearly opposite, and at no great distance from that district, formerly known by the name of Duchy of Piombino.

of this stone, the north pole of another, the former will be repelled instead of attracted: but if you present to its north pole, the south pole of another, it will be attracted.

In like manner, if to the south pole of the former, the south pole of the latter be presented, the former will recede: but if to the same south pole, the north pole of the second be presented, it will approach.

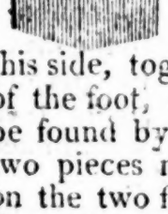
The poles then of the same name repel, and those of a different name attract each other.

EXPERIMENT 111.

If a magnet be cut in a direction perpendicular to the axis passing through its two poles, A and B, there will be formed by the section two new poles, as F and E; so that if A be the south pole of the whole stone, E will be a north pole, and F a south pole.

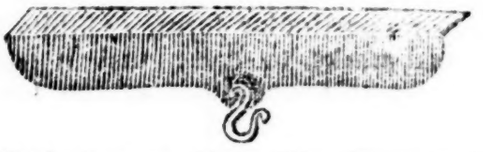
A magnet, however good, unless it be very large, will scarcely support a few pounds of iron; and in general the weight which a magnet can carry is always very much below its own weight. But means have been found out, by employing what is called arming, to make it produce a much more considerable effect. We shall therefore describe the method of arming a magnet.

First, give the magnet a figure nearly regular, and square its sides, where the two poles are situated, so that these two sides may form two parallel planes. Then make of soft iron (for steel is not so good) two pieces of this shape, viz.



the long and flat side of which may be of the same length and breadth as the faces of the magnet, where the poles are situated. The proper thickness, however, of this side, together with the projection of the foot, and its thickness can only be found by repeated trials. These two pieces must embrace the magnet on the two faces where the poles are, the feet passing below, as if to support it; and they must be fastened in that situation by transverse bands of copper, surrounding the magnet, and compressing the long branches of these pieces against the faces of the poles.

Then provide a piece of soft iron of the annexed form, viz.



a little longer than the distance between the bands of iron, applied to the poles of the magnet, and in thickness somewhat more than the flat faces of the lower part of the feet of the arming. The height must be regulated by convenience. Pierce a hole in it towards the middle, for the purpose of suspending from it the weight to be supported by the magnet. This fastened to the above pieces by bands of copper, or iron, completes the arming.*

A magnet armed in this manner is sensibly increased in power, so as to support from twenty to thirty times its own weight.

Lemery says, he saw a magnet of the size of a moderate apple, which supported twenty-two pounds. One has been seen of eleven ounces, which could support twenty-eight pounds; a sum above 200*l.* was demanded for it. M. de Condamine possessed one, given him by Maupertuis, which was capable of supporting a weight much greater than any other known. We do not remember its dimensions, or its weight, neither of which was very remarkable, but if we recollect right, he used to say, that it could support sixty pounds.

Researches have been made to discover whether there be any other bodies, besides iron, susceptible of being attracted by the magnet, from which

* This process of *arming* seems to proceed on the principle of the impermeability of iron by the magnetic effluvia, and that consequently, when the magnet has been armed (might we not much better say, cased) all round, except at one pole, the effluvia is then compelled to exert its combined influence in the one direction: hence the process may be very much simplified, as the only thing necessary to be done, is to provide such a case of soft iron, as will contain the magnet, and so contrived as to allow of taking the magnet out to change its pole, according as the attractive or repulsive power may be wanting.

it appears, that there are not. Yet Muschenbroek says, that the magnet seemed to exercise an action on a stone which he calls *Lough Neagh**. We are not acquainted with this stone, but it is probably some kind of iron-ore, in which this metal is very little mineralized.

In his "Cours de Physique Experimentale," Chap. vii. he gives an account of some trials, made on a great many different kinds of matter, to ascertain whether they were susceptible of being attracted by the magnet. He found that this stone, without any preparation, attracted the whole, or a great many of the particles in different kinds of sand and earth, which he enumerates. Several others presented no particles susceptible of attraction, until they had been exposed to the action of fire, by bringing them to a red heat, and burning them with soap, or charcoal, or grease; after which, says he, they were attracted by the magnet, with nearly as much force as iron filings; such, adds he, are the earth, of which bricks are made, and which becomes red when burnt; also different kinds of bole coloured sand. Others, when burnt in this manner, presented only a few particles, susceptible of attraction.

This will not appear surprizing, if we compare the two following facts; the first is, that the magnet never attracts iron but when in its metallic state; and that it has no action on this metal, when calcined, or reduced to the state of an oxyd; the second is, that iron is universally diffused throughout nature, and in almost all bodies more or less distant from its metallic state. Bodies, which contain it in its metallic state are all, or in part, capable of being attracted by the magnet, without any preparation; but in others it is not susceptible of attraction, till it has been burnt with fat matters, which restore it to its metallic state.

EXPERIMENT IV.

The direction of the Magnetic Current.

Place an unwarmed magnet on a piece of paste board, and throw iron filings round it; if the paste-board be then gently tapped, the filings will be seen arranging themselves round the magnet in curved lines, which approaching each other, like the meridians in a map of the world, meet at its two poles.

This experiment favours the opinion of those who think that the magnetic phenomena depend on a fluid, which issues from one of the poles of the stone, and enters at the other, after having circulated round it.

EXPERIMENT V.

Which proves that the Magnet and Iron have a mutual action on each other.

Place two magnets, or a magnet and a piece of iron on two bits of cork made to float in a bason of water. Having then turned the north pole of the one towards the south pole of the other, provided two magnets are employed, if the two pieces of cork be left to themselves, you will see them proceed towards each other. The case will be the same if a bit of iron be presented to the north pole of the magnet. This attraction then is reciprocal.

Of the Communication of the Magnetic Property.

Magnetism, or the property of attracting iron, and of turning towards a certain point of the heavens, is not so peculiar to the magnet, as to be incapable of being communicated: but no bodies have yet been found susceptible of this communication, except iron and steel.

About a century ago, it was believed that contact alone, or the continued presence of a magnet, could produce this effect; but a method has since been discovered, to render a piece of iron magnetic, without the magnet; and these artificial magnets are even susceptible of acquiring a strength rarely found in natural magnets.

* The coincidence of this name with that of our lake at home, is too striking to be incidental; and it seems to furnish a ludicrous instance of Muschenbroek's ignorance beyond the limits of his immediate pursuit, and of Hutton's carelessness in his remarks, for this is part of one of his express commentaries, on the expected advantages of which the *new and improved* edition of Ozanam has been trumpeted forth. This *Lough Neagh*, if we may be allowed a conjecture, was a pebble of some kind from *the lake*, which might have contained a large proportion of iron ore.

EXPERIMENT I.

Method of Magnetising; and, first, of Communicating the Power by Contact.

Provide a magnet, armed or unarmed, and (if armed) make one of the feet of the armour, and one of the poles pass over a plate of tempered steel, such as the blade of a knife, but proceeding always in the same direction, from the middle, for example, towards the point. After performing this operation a certain number of times, the plate of iron will be found possessed of an attractive force.

The case will be the same, if a long slender bit of steel be left a long time attached to a magnet: the steel by remaining in that situation, will acquire the magnetic property, it will have poles like the magnet, so that the north pole will be at the end, which was near the south pole of the stone, and the end, which touched the north pole, will become the south pole.

EXPERIMENT II.

Method of making an Artificial Magnet with Bars of Steel.

Provide twelve bars of tempered steel, about six inches in length, six lines in breadth, and two in thickness. Care must be taken to mark them at one of their extremities, before they are tempered. Arrange six of these bars in a straight line, but so as to be in contact, and that the marked ends shall be directed to the north; take an armed magnet, and place it on one of these bars, with its north pole towards the marked end, and the south pole towards the other end: then move the stone over the whole line, beginning at the *unmarked* end of the first, and repeat this operation three or four times.

When this is done, remove the two bars, in the middle, and substitute them for those at the two extremities, which must be placed in the middle; then move the stone in the same direction over the four bars in the middle only (for it is needless to comprehend those at the extremities) and invert the whole line: that is turn up the face, which was turned downward, and magnetize the bars again in the same manner, taking care to transpose the bars at the extremities into the place of the middle ones.

By these means, you will have six magnetized bars, which must be formed into two parcels, each containing three. In these parcels, the northern extremity must be towards the same side, but when the one parcel is placed upon the other, care must be taken, that the northern extremity of the bars of the one, may rest upon the southern extremities of those of the other. These two parcels must touch at their upper part, and be separated on the other side: this separation may be effected by means of a bit of wood, placed between them.

(To be Continued.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

VIEW OF THE NATURAL SMALL-POX, &c.

BY JOHN ADDINGTON, ESQ.

HISTORY.

FOR twelve centuries, this disease has been known to continue its ravages, destroying in every year an immense proportion of the whole population of the world.

NATURAL SMALL-POX.

General character....In some instances mild, but for the most part violent, painful, loathsome, contagious, and dangerous to life.

Mortality....One in six, who have the disease, dies. At least half of mankind have it; consequently one in twelve of the human race perish by one disease! In London, 3000 annually. In the United Kingdom, 40,000.

Danger....One in three, has a dangerous disease.

Contagion....Contagion always accompanies it.

INOCULATED SMALL-POX.

General character....For the most part mild, but in some instances violent, painful, loathsome, contagious, and dangerous to life.

Mortality....One in three hundred, inoculated dies. In London, probably one in one hundred! Inoculation of Small-pox, by spreading the disease, has increased its general mortality by 17 in every 1000.

Danger....One in thirty or forty, has a dangerous disease.

Contagion....Contagion always accompanies it.

INOCULATED COW-POX.

General character....Uniformly mild, inoffensive, free from pain or danger, and an infallible preventative of the small-pox.

Mortality....Never fatal.

Danger.....No danger.

Contagion....Not contagious.

An Illustration in favour of Vaccine Inoculation.

By observing, that the going through small-pox, in the casual way, by the inoculation of it, and by exciting the cow-pox, in place of the small-pox, might be compared to crossing a river in three different ways.

1. By swimming, or wading through it, by which 97 out of 1000 perished.

2. By going over in boats; in which from six to nine per thousand were lost, and

3. By means of a bridge, on the passage of which neither adult nor child perished; not an individual; except from such casualties as might operate in other situations.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

CREDULITY is the growth of every country, where correct views of things do not prevail, and where mankind will not think and reflect. Our country has been disgraced by the proceedings of the witch of Carnmoney and her dupes, where the effects of credulity and superstition were so tragically exemplified. An instance of a similar, or rather grosser delusion, has occurred in England, as appears from an account prefixed to *a sermon against witchcraft, preached in the parish church of Great Paxton, in the county of Huntingdon, July* 17, 1808, *by the Rev. Isaac Nicholson A. M. curate.* It is no less useful to give a record of the follies and vices, than of the wisdom and virtue of mankind.

A brief account of the attack on the person of an Izzard, and the circumstances which led to it, in the year 1593, an indelible mark of infamy was stamped upon the inhabitants of Warboys, in the county of Huntingdon, for their folly and wickedness in carrying to trial, and afterwards to execution three of their unfortunate parishioners for the alleged offence of witchcraft. The better informed part of the community may believe that the doctrine of witchcraft has long been exploded, and that it does not in this enlightened age, disgrace even the lowest orders of the people of England; but the following statement of facts, will convince them of their mistake, and allowing for the difference of science and civilization, will show that Great Paxton, in the same county, is more than upon a level with Warboys for ignorance, credulity, and barbarity.

In the afternoon of Wednesday the seventeenth of February last, Alice Brown, a young woman of Great Paxton, imprudently ventured across the ice which then covered the surface of the Ouse. A thaw of some hours had rendered the ice unsafe, and she had not walked many yards upon it, before it gave way, and let her into the river. From this perilous situation she providentially extricated herself, and reached the opposite bank, where her friend Fanny Amey, scarcely less terrified than herself at what had happened, stood anxiously waiting for her. Shivering and frightened she hastened to her father's house, about a quarter of a mile from the river, and almost as soon as she entered it, was seized with a strong epileptic fit. Fanny Amey had been subject to epilepsy for several months previous to this period, and therefore it is not at all surprising that she should be sympathetically affected, and fall into similar convulsions.

Alice Brown did not speedily get over the effects of her fright; her distressing fits returned at short intervals, and disqualified her for every kind of work; indeed she was so much reduced by them, that her friends began to despair of her recovery. Inquiring after the state of her health on the 5th of April, I was astonished and grieved to hear from her brother that her fits, weakness, and dejection were ascribed to the effect of witchcraft. "She is under an ill tongue," said the youth. "As sure as you are alive, Sir," continued the man who stood by, "she is

bewitched, and so are two other girls that live near her. There is a man in the town I came from, in Bedfordshire, who is exactly like Alice Brown; he could do no work, lost all his strength, and was wasting away very fast, when a person told him what was the matter with him, and how he might be cured. He filled a bottle with a particular kind of a fluid, stuffed the cork both top and bottom with pins, set it carefully in an oven of a moderate heat, and then observed a profound silence. In a few minutes the charm succeeded, for he saw a variety of forms flitting before his eyes, and amongst the rest the perfect resemblance of an old woman who lived in the same parish. This was what he wanted; he was now satisfied who it was that had injured him, and that her reign would soon be over: the woman, whose figure he saw, died in a few days, and the man immediately recovered. Thomas Brown tried this charm last night for his daughter, and, though a strange noise was distinctly heard twice by his wife, who was in bed with the poor girl, it did not succeed according to our wishes, so they have not at present found out who it is that does all the mischief."

If I was shocked at this man's absurdity and superstition, I was infinitely more so to understand it was the general opinion of the people that Alice Brown, Fanny Amey and Mary Fox were certainly bewitched by some person who had purchased a familiar or an evil spirit of the devil, at the expense of his own soul; and that a variety of charms and experiments had been tried to discover who it was.

When the public service of the day was over, I called on Fanny Amey and Alice Brown. It was not in my power to judge from the countenance of the former, that any thing was the matter with her; she was perfectly collected, and looked the picture of health. Alice Brown was asleep in bed, and thererore I did not see her. At both houses I endeavoured to explain to the relations and friends of the young women, that it was an utter impossibility for one human creature to injure the health of another, by any invisible and preternatural process; entreated them to discountenance notions so wild and irrational, and begged them to try other means than senseless charms to recover their children.

A few minutes before I went into church on the following Sunday, Ann Izzard, a poor woman of Great Paxton, requested leave to speak with me. In tears, and greatly agitated, she told me her neighbours pretended they had discovered, by means of certain charms, that she was a witch, and blamed her for the fits and illness of Alice Brown, Fanny Amey and Mary Fox; she said they threatened to punish her, abused her children, and frightened her so much that she frequently dropped on the ground in fainting fits, and concluded with asserting her innocence in these words: "I am not a witch, I am willing to prove it by being weighed against the church bible*."

After the sermon, I addressed the congregation upon the subject, pointed out the folly of their opinions, the fatal consequences which might result from brooding over them, and tried to persuade them, that, although they might be weak enough to suppose there was no harm in laying violent hands on a woman, they madly called a witch, yet the laws of their country would view their conduct in a very different light.

But argument, explanation, and remonstrance were in vain; the mania had taken full possession of them, and was only to be cured or restrained by the powerful arm of the law.

On Thursday, the 5th of May, Ann Izzard was at St. Neots-market: and it so happened that her son, about sixteen years old, was sent the same day to St. Neots, by his master, a respectable farmer† of Great Paxton, for a

* Ann Izzard is a little woman, about sixty years of age, and by no means ill looking; she has eight children, five are now living.

† John Bidwell, the person here alluded to, and his wife, have been the steady friends of Ann Izzard in her affliction. They have been very instrumental in keeping her from the horrors of despair. Instead of being commended, however, they have been abused and pointed at for their humanity. Be it so now; this will prove no bar to their good actions being recorded to their everlasting honour at the tribunal of God.

load of corn. One of the horses which drew the cart was young and unmanageable, and in going down the hill which leads to the village of Paxton, by his plunging and restiveness, overturned it. By this unfortunate accident the shopkeeper's grocery was materially damaged, and because Ann Izzard had repeatedly advised her not to put the basket upon the sacks, she charged her with overturning the cart, by means of her infernal art, on purpose to spoil her goods. It will scarcely be credited, that in an hour after, the whole parish was in an uproar. "She has just overturned a loaded cart with as much ease as if it had been a spinning wheel," was echoed from one end of it to the other. Men, women and children raised their voices and exclaimed, "we have now proof positive of her guilt; this last act, in open day, speaks for itself; she is the person that does all the mischief; if something is not done to put a stop to her baseness, there will be no living in the place." Nor did this extraordinary fit of frenzy terminate till they had made two attacks upon her, which, atrocious as they appear to me, are considered by themselves as not only justifiable, but highly meritorious. The dark and uninstructed Caffrarian would look upon such actions as a perpetual scandal to himself, and an everlasting disgrace to his country.

A considerable number of people assembled together as it grew dark, on Sunday evening the eighth of May, and taking with them the young woman ridiculously supposed to be bewitched, about ten o'clock proceeded to the cottage of Wright Izzard, which stands alone, at some distance from the body of the village. When they arrived at this solitary spot, so favourable for the execution of their villainous designs, they broke into the poor man's house, dragged his wife out of bed, and threw her naked into the yard, where her arms were torn with pins, her head was dashed against the large stones of the causeway: and her face, stomach, and breast, were severely bruised with a thick stick, that served as a bar to the door. Having thus satiated themselves, the mob dispersed. The woman then crawled into her house, put her clothes on, and went to the constable, who said, "he could not protect her, because he was not sworn." The humanity, protection, and assistance, which she could not find at the constable's, very happily for herself, she found under the roof of a poor widow. The compassionate and honest Alice Russel unlocked her door at the first call, wrapped up her neighbour's bleeding arms with the nicest linen rags she had, affectionately sympathized with and comforted her, and gave her a bed. But with the deepest grief I relate it, the compassion and kindness of this poor woman were the means of shortening her days. "The protectors of a witch are just as bad as the witch, and deserve the same treatment," cried the infatuated populace the next morning. The envenomed shaft flew direct to its mark, and the widow Russel neither eat nor slept again*.

On the evening of Monday the ninth of May, Ann Izzard was a second time dragged out of her house, and a second time were her arms torn with pins till they streamed afresh with blood. Alive the next morning, and apparently likely to survive this attack also, her enemies resolved to have her ducked as soon as the labour of the day was over. On hearing this she hastily quitted her home, and took refuge in a neighbouring village†, where their inhumanity and malevolence could not reach her.

ISAAC NICHOLSON.

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* The widow Russel lived nearly twelve years in my house, during that time I experienced many proofs of her punctuality, fidelity, and honesty; she died a martyr to fear and apprehension, on Friday the 20th of May.

† I have been repeatedly told that eleven people out of twelve in this neighbourhood condemn me for taking Ann Izzard into my house, or in their language, "for harbouring such a wretch." I must acknowledge it is a matter of perfect indifference to me whether they approve or condemn me for showing compassion to a fellow creature in distress. "It may be that the Lord will requite me for their cursing."

II Samuel, chap. xvi. v. 12.

Little Paxton, July 25th, 1808.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TABLE-TALK.

(Continued from Page 252, No. IV.)

DR. S. I do agree with you entirely, sir: to ascertain where the abuse originated, if it were practicable, is unnecessary; because I believe it will be allowed, that now if men were seen paying to good sense and conversational talent, in a female, the respect they pay to senseless grinning beauty, a desirable reform would instantly take place. Females would be then led to the study of useful attainments instead of qualifying themselves for the place of stage-dancers, or public performers on musical instruments; the idle industry of fillagree, and all that baublish tribe would cease; and even though useful books should be read for the mere purpose of shining in conversation, it would be the more tolerable abuse; and the person who read, would give a hope of being more accessible to reason, than the poor thoughtless things, who tell you, as a laudable boast, that they hate thinking, of all things. What reasonable hope can men entertain of obtaining partners in the marriage state, who shall be able to discharge the important duties of wife, mother, and mistress, when they discountenance in females the acquisitions necessary to qualify them? What blindness!!

Mr. Aimworth. Well Dr. as a candidate for the honourable state of matrimony, I shall treasure up your advice, the justice of which I fully allow; yet permit me to say, that you seem too severe upon us young folks; the evils you speak of do exist, but perhaps, not to the extent your words seem to imply.

Dr. S. Sir, there are some exceptions, I grant: I have met with some young people, who manifested without ostentation, the riches of a cultivated mind, and who could bear their part in conversation, and reflected credit on their valued parents. Such persons had no need for recourse to the prevalent mode of entertaining a company with drawing anamorphoses of their dearest friends. This wretched resource of barren ignorance was unknown to them. But, sir, such characters are so rare, as not to affect the general description of society. Rational entertainment is so little known, that should our usual conversations in this family, or even what has passed among us now go abroad faithfully reported, it would not gain credit, and rather be supposed a kind of covert sneer on the actual state of things, as they are to be seen at our fashionable parties. Neither is it among the thoughtless and dissipated that this neglect of an instructive interchange is to be found: it infects even the wise and learned; insomuch that we may boldly pronounce, that few now-a-days, can boast of having received any instruction in conversation, from any learned person of his acquaintance.

Mr. Aimworth. My acquaintance with the world is too limited yet to enable me to determine on your assertion from my own experience: If it be as you say, we form a strange contrast to the ancients; whom we are accustomed to reverence as our masters. We have not, it is true, any remnants of their familiar conversations; but we may infer from the form of dialogue, in which most of their famous treatises on philosophy are delivered, that serious and interesting subjects were discussed in private meetings. In our days, such discussions are so completely unknown, that no person would venture to publish his sentiments on a subject in the form of a supposed conversation, if he aimed at verisimilitude; except in matters of religion, on which people are in general ready enough to dispute. Where we find the most esteemed writers then giving their thoughts in such a form, (as we may be sure they aimed at throwing an appearance of probability over their writings) the just conclusion is, that their writings are in this respect a just picture of manners as they were. How much it were to be wished, that such a picture could be exhibited now; and why might not the effort be made? Surely, if the superior advantages of passing time in rational conversation were strikingly

contrasted with the emptiness, the absurdity, nay the sinfulness of abusing time, as is too generally done; if some person, who possessed the influence conferred by respectability and talent, were to enforce this duty on society, men could not be so blind to their real interest as not at least to make a trial.

Dr. S. Young gentleman, I honour your zeal and taste, and if I could promise myself any advantage from an exertion, such as you urge, I should not be backward to assist; but I am not yet so deranged, as to be qualified for such a Quixotic expedition. You may think, young gentleman, that I am (as one I think with whom you are intimate has it) "*Laudator temporis acti*," but no, I have seen considerable improvement in many respects in this nation; and, in this particular I am so impartial as not to give my unqualified praise to your favourite ancients, on the score of conversation. Their conversational parties wanted their chief ornament, the female. Among the Romans the women were more generously treated than among the Greeks; they had the enjoyment of their liberty, could visit and receive visits when and where they pleased, and were not precluded from the company of the men. Yet an acquaintance with what we term accomplishments, dancing, and singing well, and speaking Greek, the French of those times, exposed a woman to the vilest imputations. Among the Greeks, the females seem degraded into objects for mere sensual indulgence, and prized for beauty or excellence, as one would prize a horse or dog. It was esteemed highly indecent for a female to be visible to any male but her husband, not even to her husband's nearest male relations. If you then propose these people as an example, I move an amendment.

Mr. R. Your expectations, Dr. do not seem very sanguine, nor, I must confess, are mine; but, though we despair of producing any general reform in society, we are not precluded from an endeavour to make the best of our situation. Suppose, then, we should look about us, and see whether each of us now present, be acquainted with one person, if no more, whom we could associate with us, into a kind of weekly meeting. The idea has at times occupied my mind, and on one of these occasions, fancying I saw the blemishes of fashionable life, I amused myself with the plan of a society, formed on the principle of being *directly opposed* to the fashionable world, in those particulars wherein it is censurable. I even went so far as to draw up a number of resolutions as the basis of its constitution, which, if you have any desire, I shall lay before you.

Mr. A. Sir, I am delighted at the idea. I have gone into company as well inclined to be amused as any one, and people say, *that* is more than half way to finding pleasure; yet, disappointment has almost always met me. I have been dragged into a dispute about politics, or called on to decide a hunting bet, or stuck up amongst a bevy of misses, at questions and commands, or still worse, nailed to a card-table, with some of the unamiable of both sexes. And surely I should be rejoiced at the prospect of being able to enjoy myself once a week.

Mrs. R. Well, Mr. R. you have been secret indeed; did you suppose I inherited so much of my sex's failing, that you would not communicate your ideas to me.

Mr. R. By no means, my dear, but the matter did not seem of sufficient promise to make it worth mentioning; but now that our conversation has taken this unexpected turn, I shall read you what I sketched.

We, the undersigned, having often smarted under the ordinances imposed by the legislators of fashion, and wishing to enjoy occasionally the comforts of instructive conversation, mutual attentions, politeness, modest cloathing and elbow-room, have agreed to the following resolutions, viz.

Resolved, That the object of our meetings shall be, primarily to promote as much as possible useful conversation, that we may enjoy some recompense for the sacrifice we make to society at large, in exposing ourselves to pain from fashionable insipidity.

That in furtherance of this, each member shall exert him or herself in exciting profitable research, and in calling forth the talents of each other, most diligently avoiding the fashionable principle of outshining or eclipsing each other.

That the president, shall be empowered, at his own discretion to call on each member in succession, for a short essay, tale, &c. according as the person called on may think proper.

That no female member be permitted, *on any account*, to appear in a meeting of the society, *fashionably dressed*, under pain of being sent home to *undress*, nor in any other meeting, more than *half-naked*, under pain of being disowned as a member of this society.

That no scandal be permitted in the society, no hints of convenient dropsies, of sudden visits to the country, of ladies appearing unexpectedly thin, &c. penalty (if a female member) silence for the night (If a male member) standing up in his place, and, in the character of a *fashionable*, saying something silly.*

That the gentlemen shall be polite and attentive to the ladies: no relaxation of this resolution to be permitted, except in compliance with the feelings of occasional visitors, should they express their dislike of such antiquated conduct.

That no member, whether male or female, shall talk nonsense, except as in the preceding case.

That cards, questions and commands, hot-cockles, &c. never be introduced, except, as before excepted.

That the room provided for the meetings of the society be always of such a size, as in a full meeting, will allow each individual space to turn round.

Dr. S. Whatever will tend to correct the *extravagancies* of society, shall have my hearty support; especially, when these extravagancies are the luxuriant exuberances of things laudable in themselves.

Mrs. R. As a female, I must acknowledge myself interested in such a plan, especially in that, which I think, the Doctor alludes to in his *extravaganzas*, politeness being lately supposed to consist in that kind of conduct, which contributes to the ease and harmony of intercourse, some have overlooked the *spirit*, and attended to the *letter*, and seeing *ease* mentioned as the object to be attained through it, have wisely begun *at home*, and made politeness consist in consulting their *own ease:* so that, except with a few young men only just entering in life, and consequently unformed on their notions, or some old gentleman of the old school, a lady has little chance of common attentions. Now, as I do not feel myself to be one of the most robust of the creation, I must confess I should not be sorry, in case of my husband's absence, to be escorted by a gentleman to my carriage, from the theatre on a crowded night, or be protected on some similar occasion.

Mr. A. I hope it will not be necessary for me to declare my hearty concurrence in any measure conducive to the improvement of manners.

After some more conversation on the subject, it was finally agreed that an attempt should be made to collect a few persons qualified to constitute such a society. At the suggestion of Dr. Sowerby it was agreed that *merit alone* should qualify for admission, and to the honour of the others be it recorded, that they immediately assented. After these steps they adjourned the meeting to that day fortnight.

EVENING II.

Present....Mr. and Mrs. Revel, Dr. Sowerby, Mr. Ainsworth. Rev. Mr. Holmby, introduced by Mr. Revel, Mr. Stanhope, by Mr. Ainsworth.

Dr. S. We are but few, I see, yet small as the number is, it exceeds my expectation, as I confess I think it beyond the usual proportion of things, and that we have been able to collect such a number, though small, reflects honour on Mr. and Mrs. Revel, through whose connections, made with discrimination, we have been made known to each other.

Mr. R. Excuse me, Dr. I think myself the honoured person, since my friends, by admitting me to their intimacy, seemed to have thought me possessed of some little merit. We are now competent to form a quorum, and have some to spare. We might, therefore, in consistency with our intention, proceed to organize ourselves, and I would thereto propose, that Dr. Sowerby be chosen perpetual president. His zeal for the interest of society warrants us to expect from him activity

* This regulation not to bind visitors.

in the office, and his information and understanding will render any code of laws, except what we have already agreed to, unnecessary.

This proposal met with the approbation of all, the Dr. excepted, but his objections were over-ruled; so that henceforth we are to consider the society as regularly formed, with the Dr. at its head.

The Doctor thought that on his appointment to the presidency, it was his duty to deliver his opinion to the society, on the principal objects of their association; he therefore addressed them in a *neat, forcible* speech to the following purport:

"I feel considerable pleasure, my friends, on being called on to address you on an occasion, which I had often fondly wished for, and yet scarcely felt myself authorized to indulge a hope on. We meet, for the purpose of recreating ourselves after the fatigue of supporting a part in society, which cannot but be painful, that of maintaining an intercourse with those we cannot esteem, and in compliance with their wishes, doing what we dislike and must condemn.

"Who, being gifted with but a moderate portion of good sense, can join with any pleasure in the pursuits of the card-table; what man of delicacy will partake in the gross excesses of the bottle; what person of generous feeling can do such violence to themselves, as I will not say, to take pleasure in, but to—suffer calumny and falsehood to be poured forth in an overwhelming torrent on the reputation even of an enemy?"

"And what else are the—so termed *pleasures* of society? Go to party after party; bring the *component parts* to an analysis; after a thousand experiments the result will be the same, a turbulent effervescing bacchanal spirit, corroding acid of slander, and the *caput mortuum* of the card-table.

"What is life to those who have a relish for higher things, but nausea and disgust? Let us think ourselves fortunate, my friends, that we have thus met together, and let us act with a hearty resolve to benefit each other. The follies and vapidness, I would add too, the criminal nature of many of the *pleasures* of fashionable life, furnish us, in some respects, with a rule, *per antithesin*, whereby to walk. In the particulars I have mentioned, it will be our rule to proceed in direct opposition. We shall admit of no excess in wine, cards shall be utterly excluded, and the person among us found guilty of any slanderous insinuation, shall be sent to keep company with the talebearers and calumniators elsewhere. I anticipate your hearty agreement in these sentiments, and I shall not think so meanly of my friends, as to compliment them on it, as I am convinced, that in agreeing hereto they make no sacrifice. We do not come together, casting a look of longing and regret after *those dear pleasures*, cards, scandal and the bottle. We associate rather as those, who rejoice at having found a pleasing retreat, where we may enjoy ourselves at ease from folly and turbulence. So far am I from complimenting on this occasion, I should on the contrary, be much inclined to reprehend you severely, if, when an opportunity of this kind is offered, you should be found clinging rather to that intercourse, from which you can reap neither pleasure nor advantage. You, my friends, have not the apology of ignorance of better things. You cannot say, your minds are void of information, your taste unformed, your judgment unimproved; on the contrary, I know you possess taste, judgment and good sense. How culpable then, with such qualifications, should you be, if found delighting and participating in the pleasures of those who are destitute of all. To souls, into which the sun of science has never shot a ray, whose only knowledge is the hedging a bet, or arranging frippery, let us leave the congenial delights of cards, scandal, and such appropriate *agremens*, from you I expect, from you I would demand superior things.

"Let us now advert to the purposes for which we meet; the primary one confessedly, the enjoyment of conversation connected with an enquiry into every thing tending to an improvement of it. As invested with the office, which your flattering election has conferred on me, I would propose for the subject of this evening's conference, the

question, what is conversation, what its defects, and what the remedy.

"Were I called on to define it, I should feel myself inclined to describe it by negatives, and I should be less solicitous about giving a *positive* definition, as there are so many present to supply my deficiency."

Mrs. R. Well, sir, please to proceed then.

Dr. S. I would commence by saying, it is not disputing, even to anger and mutual abuse, about religion and politics, nor the disgorging of slanderous ridicule, with full approbation of the hearers, against any person when absent, to whom when present, the slanderer would behave with every appearance of respect and esteem (how base!) nor the monopolizing of all the *talk* (for then it loses the essential attribute of conversation) nor the vapid interchange of trite jests; the second edition of Swift's "*Polite Conversation*;" nor the arrangement of fashions, nor the tales of the nursery.

Mr. R. Have pity Dr. and do not proceed to clear off at such a rate: the fashionable world may congratulate itself, that you are not its legislator, for even if you should proceed no farther in your scheme of limitation, you would condemn to painful silence nine tenths of our people of wit. What would become of all those whose character is so high for selling of bargains, pert replies, costive puns? And then the descriptive eloquence of dress-fanciers! how completely would it be marred? you must, indeed, be more merciful, and in consideration of the utter hopelessness of any improvement in the present generation, leave them to themselves, and direct your thoughts and laws to the rising one.

Rev. Mr. Holmby. While I heartily concur with Dr. Sowerby in so much of his negative definition, as he has been permitted to give, I also agree with my friend Mr. R. that by proscribing such things, we should unpeople routs and drums, as my own experience proves to me the utter aversion from all rational modes of intercourse that seems to pervade society. I have frequently sought to give a turn, where I have been, to the frivolous or malicious chat that was consuming our time: sometimes, I have endeavoured to introduce some topic, that I thought, would lead to information; then I was nick-named pedant: at other times I have thought it my duty to lead the company to some serious considerations; then I heard myself called, methodist or swaddler. Now I cannot, for my life understand, why some instructive subject might not be introduced, when a number of people is collected; yet the very attempt is treated like *Leze Majesté*, or what is there in a scriptural subject, that should, on solemn occasions, make the discussion of it improper.

Mr. Aimworth. It has been ruled in the courts, that *truth* is no libel, else I should fear that the opinions we have given on this subject, might expose us to the charge of libelling society, and so we should fall under the same imputation of slandering, which we lay on others. By attending to the Dr's. definition we may infer *conversation* to be a mutual interchange of opinions, on subjects interesting and profitable.

Mr. Stanhope. If I understand you aright, I should suppose you particularly mention *profitable and interesting subjects*; for that without them it would dwindle into mere *chat*: I conceive, also, that according to your view, all subjects may be introduced; and that discussion and argument are legitimate parts of it, while you would banish *disputing and argumentation*. Under such restrictions, even the touch-paper subjects of politics and religion might be introduced.

Dr. S. Yes, sir, and with much advantage too, I apprehend. Now from the mere statement of the essentials of conversation, we can ascertain the causes of the great dearth of it amongst us. It is evident, that, as some acquaintance with profitable and interesting subjects, is necessary, very few are qualified, on account of defect of information.

Rev. Mr. H. Yet, Dr. I don't think, even the possession of information sufficient if it were, we should see many, who are confessedly men of learning, shine in this accomplishment, who are conspicuously incapable of even expressing themselves with common propriety.

Mr. R. I think that not difficult to be accounted for. Some few men have been born, with an overflowing

eloquence; but, in general, the accomplishment of expressing one's self with propriety must *be acquired*; and it can be acquired by any, who will take the needful pains. It may be observed, that artizans seldom find themselves at a loss in describing the different articles or processes, in which they are engaged. We may observe too in ourselves a fluency, when we converse on those subjects, which we have most frequently spoken of: as the reverse takes place, if we meddle with matters we are not much acquainted with. So that ease and propriety of expression, result from a combination of intimacy with a subject, and a capacity of dressing our thoughts in words, a capacity which is enlarged by practice, and an encreasing familiarity with the necessary terms.

Mrs. R. This will admit, I think, of a familiar illustration. Our sex flourish with much ease and fluency, on the merits of their petticoats, book-muslin robes, and all the apparatus necessary to discover, under the name of concealment. Now would you not excuse me, if I should indulge a hearty laugh, at one of you attempting the same thing? Excuse a comparison from the nursery, it would be like a bear among children.

Mr. A. My dear madam, we can scarcely admit this to be a fair statement. Eloquence, you know, is generally supposed to be the natural inheritance of the fair sex.

Mr. S. I should be sorry to appear to detract, in the slighest measure, from female merit, and I trust I shall be acquitted of any such intention, when I state it as my opinion, that females are not *naturally* our superiors in this. The difference seems to arise from the different modes of treatment experienced by the boy and the girl. The former spends much of his play-time with his playmates, from whom he can learn little in this way: nor has he the advantage of much intercourse with his father, who is generally too much employed, to admit of it. At school his time is occupied with learning the ground-work of literature; and at college very little attention indeed is paid to the cultivation of a graceful elocution. On the contrary, the girl is kept more at home, and is almost constantly with the mother; this naturally creates a familiarity between the child and the parent; and thus we may rationally account for the seeming earlier ripeness in the female. She has been more practised and more early drawn out in the exercise of expressing herself. This seems to me much more plausible, than the silly sneer in the comparison of "empty vessels making the greatest sound;" or the clumsy implication of a compliment to ourselves in the allusion to "loaded carriages moving the most slowly." The remarkable talkativeness of boys, who have been reared by females, is, I think, an additional proof. Mrs. Revel, I should conceive, must be a good judge in this question; to her I appeal.

Mrs. R. I was at first, sir, inclined to quarrel with you for attempting to rob us of what some of the ill-natured of your sex call our only qualification. But I am now decidedly of your opinion, and at the same time, thank you, in the name of the sex, for the handsome manner in which you have rescued us, from the odium, attached to our fancied superiority, by showing the emptiness of the imputed cause.

Dr. S. It seems then pretty well understood among us, that conversational excellence is very rare; that it is attainable, and that it is a very desirable attainment; in my mind, every parent, who studies the interest of his offspring, will commence their education on this point, from their tender years, and surely much of that time, spent by the parents in frivolous dissipation, and by the child in the contemptible acquirement of cutting capers, might be very profitably employed in cultivating the most endearing of all intimacies, that between the parent and the child; and then indeed how "delightful the task to rear the tender thought." How pleasing the capacity, if considered merely as an appendage to genteel education, of expressing one's ideas with ease and energy! But it is more than pleasing, it is useful, it is highly advantageous when we consider it as a mean of conciliating the favour of those whom we respect,

and to whom we look with hope of advantage: it is highly desirable especially for those, who, from their sphere of life look up to the acquisition of political power, or, with a truly patriotic heart, are anxious to acquire those fundamental principles, on which a manly, vigorous eloquence may be reared. Among many impious and absurd notions, Rousseau in his Emilius and Sophia has some just ones; among which he speaks much on the necessity of this very acquirement. The late Mr. Pitt, was much indebted for his fame, as an Orator, to this practice, I would so much recommend. His father conversed with him much, and familiarly; he obliged him to give a reason for every thing he advanced; sometimes argued with him, and thus formed him at an early age both to think, and to express those thoughts. Is it not rather a remarkable circumstance, that, even in the very seat of literature in this country, almost no effort should be made to cultivate that natural taste for eloquence, which we are generally allowed to possess. Yet so it is: if we except a few dronish discourses on oratory, delivered some years ago, and an occasional premium now for a better sort of school-boy theme, there is no exertion made.

Mr. R. I have often regretted this Dr. and have felt hurt, when, with all my partiality for my Alma Mater, I feel compelled to pronounce her nothing better than a mere schoolmistress; and I have frequently been tempted to try, if it were possible to rouse her to some higher effort. Granting (which I do not) that her undergraduate course were excellent, why should not the graduates be more considered; but I forbear; this would perhaps lead us too far from the subject before us.

Dr. S. Little I think remains to be said, now on it, as we seem all pretty well agreed.

Adjourned to the next week.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING met with the following description of the CITY OF LONDON, written by William Fitzstephen, a monk of Canterbury, about the middle of the *twelfth century*, I have transcribed it for publication in your Magazine, with the hope that it may prove entertaining to many of your readers, who may not have had an opportunity of perusing the original, or any translation thereof.

The simplicity of the style seems peculiarly adapted to a description of the City of London, at the time in which our author wrote. To contrast the manners, customs, morals and even diversions of the inhabitants of the first city in the empire, under the government of Henry the second, and George the third, at periods so remote from each other, must prove highly interesting to the philosophic mind.

BECKET.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE MOST HONOURABLE CITY OF LONDON.

The situation thereof.

AMONGST the noble cities of the world, honoured by fame, the city of London is the one principal seat of the kingdom of England, whose renown is spread abroad very far; but she transporteth her wares and commodities much farther, and advanceth her head so much the higher. Happy is she in the wholesomeness of the air, in the christian religion, her munition and strength, the nature of her situation, the honour of her citizens, the chastity of her matrons, very pleasant also in her sports and pastimes, and replenished with honourable personages. All which I think meet severally to consider.

The Temperature of the Air.

In this place, the calmness of the air doth mollifie men's minds, not corrupting them with inordinate conceptions, but preserving them from savage and rude behaviour, and seasoning their introductions with a more kind and free temper.

Of Christian Religion there.

There is in the church of St. Paul, a bishop's see, it was formerly a metropolitan, and as it is thought, shall recover the said dignity again, if the citizens shall repair each unto the island; except, perhaps the archiepiscopal title of St. Thomas the martyr, and his bodily presence, do perpetuate this honour to Canterbury, where now his reliques are. But seeing St.

Thomas hath graced both these cities, namely, London with his birth, and Canterbury with his death; one place may allege more against the other, in respect of the sight of that saint, with the accession of holiness. Now, concerning the worship of God in the Christian Faith; there are in London and in the suburbs thirteen greater conventual churches, besides one hundred and twenty-six lesser parish churches.

Of the Strength and Site of the city.

It hath on the east part a tower palatine, very large and very strong, whose court and walls rise up from a deep foundation: the mortar is tempered with the blood of beasts. On the west are two castles well fenced. The wall of the city is high and great, with seven gates, which are made double, and on the north distinguished by turrets with spaces; likewise, on the south, London hath been enclosed with walls and towers; but the large river of Thames, well stored with fish, and in which the tide ebbs and flows, by continuance of time, hath washed, worn away, and cast down these walls. Farther above, in the west part, the King's palace is eminently seated upon the same river; an incomparable building, having a wall before it, and some bulwarks; it is two miles from the city continued with a suburb full of people.

Of the Gardens planted.

Every where without the houses of the suburbs, the citizens have gardens and orchards planted with trees, large, beautiful and joining one another.

Of their Pastures.

On the north side are fields for pasture, and open meadows very pleasant; among which the river-waters do flow, and the wheels of the mills are turned about with a delightful noise. Very near lieth a large forest, in which are woody groves of wild beasts, in the coverts whereof do lurk bucks and does, wild boars and bulls.

Of the Fields.

The arable lands are no hungry pieces of gravel ground; but like the rich fields of Asia, which bring plentiful corn, and fill the barns of those that till them, with an excellent crop of the fruits of Ceres.

Of their Wells.

There are also about London, on the north of the suburbs, choice fountains of water, sweet, wholesome and clear, streaming forth among the glistening pebble-stones; in this number, Holywell, Clarkenwell, and St. Clement's well, are of most note, and frequented above the rest, when scholars and the youth of the city take the air abroad in the summer evenings.

Of the Citizens' Honour.

This city is honoured with her men, graced with her army, and peopled with a multitude of inhabitants. In the fatal wars under king Stephen, there went out to a muster, men fit for war, esteemed to the number of 20,000 horsemen armed, and 60,000 footmen. The citizens of London are known in all places, and esteemed above all other citizens, for their civil demeanour, their good apparel, their table, and their discourse.

Of the Chastity of the Matrons.

The Matrons of this city may be paralleled with the Sabine women.

Of their Schools.

In London three famous schools are kept at three principal churches, St. Paul's, the Holy Trinity, and St. Martin's; which they retain by privilege and ancient dignity; yet, for the most part, by favour of some persons, or some teachers, who are known and famed for their philosophy; there are other schools there upon good will and sufferance. Upon holidays, the masters, with their scholars, celebrate assemblies at the festival churches. The scholars dispute there for exercise sake; some use demonstrations, others topical and probable arguments; some practise enthymemes, others do better use perfect syllogisms; some exercise themselves in dispute for ostentation, which is practised among such as strive together for victory; others dispute for truth, which is the grace of perfection*. *The sophisters, which are dissemblers, turn verbalists, and are magnified when they overflow in speech, and abundance of words; some also are*

* If we did not know that the *monk* Fitzstephen wrote the description of these sophisters near 700 years ago, we would be led to think that he had in his eye, a school kept in our days, within the chapel of St. Stephen, at Westminster, of which the Rt. Hon. Wm. P—tt, was principal teacher. T.

entrapped in deceitful arguments. Sometimes certain orators with rhetorical orations, speak handsomely to persuade, being careful to observe the precepts of art, who omit no matter contingent.

The boys of divers schools wrangle together in versifying, or canvass the principles of grammar, or dispute the rules of the preterperfect, and future tenses. Some there are that deal in epigrams, rhymes and verses, use that trivial way of abuse. These do freely abuse their fellows, suppressing their names, with a fescenine and railing liberty; these cast out most abusive jests, and with Socratical witty expressions, they touch the vices of their fellows, or perhaps of their superiors, or fall upon them with a satyrical bitterness, and with bolder reproaches than is fit. The hearers, prepared for laughter, make themselves merry in the mean time.

How the affairs of the City are disposed.

The several craftsmen, the several sellers of wares, and workmen for hire, are all distinguished every morning by themselves, in their places as well as trades. Besides, there is in London, upon the river's bank, a public place of cookery. There, every day we may call for any dish of meat, roast, fryed, or boiled; fish both small and great; ordinary flesh for the poorer sort, and more dainty for the rich, as venison and fowl.

If friends come upon a sudden, wearied with travel, to a citizen's house, and they be loth to wait for curious preparations, and dressings of fresh meat; let the servants give them water to wash, and bread to stay their stomach, and in the mean time they run to the water side, where all things that can be desired are at hand. Whatsoever multitude of soldiers, or other strangers, enter into the city at any hour of the day or night, or else are about to depart: they may turn in, bait and refresh themselves to their content, and so avoid long fasting, and not go away without their dinner. If any desire to fit their dainty tooth, they take a goose; they need not to long for the fowl of Africa, no, nor the rare godwit of Ionia. This is the Public Cookery, and very convenient for the state of a city, and belongs to it. Hence it is, we read in Plato's Gorgias, that next to the physician's art is the trade of cooks.

Of Smithfield.

Without one of the gates is a certain field, plain (or smooth) both in name and situation, every Friday, except some greater festival come in the way: there is a fine sight of good horses to be sold; many come out of the city to buy or look on; to wit, earls, barons, knights, citizens, all resorting thither. It is a pleasant sight, there to behold the animals well-fleshed, sleek, and shining, delightfully walking, and their feet on either side up and down together, by turns; or else trotting horses, which are more convenient for men that bear arms; these, although they set a little harder, go away readily, and lift up and set down together, the contrary feet on either side. Here are, also, young colts of a good breed, that have not been well accustomed to the bridle; these fling about, and by mounting bravely, show their mettle. Here are principal horses, strong and well limbed. Here are also breast horses, fit to be joined by couples, very fair and handsome, and sleek about the ears, carrying their necks aloft, being well fleshed, and round about the buttocks. In another part stand the country people, with cattle, and commodities of the field, large swine, and kine with their udders strutting out, fair-bodied oxen, and the woolly flock. There are also cart horses, fit for the dray, or the plough, or the chariot; and some mares, big with foal, together with others that have their wanton colts following them close at their sides.

Concerning Shipping and Merchandize.

To this city merchants bring in wares, by ships, from every nation under heaven. The Arabian sends his gold, the Sabean his frankincense and spices, the Scythian, arms; oil of palms from the plentiful wood, Babylon her fat soil, and Nylus her precious stones; the Seres send purple garments; they of Norway and Russia trouts, furs, and sables, and the French their wines*.

* Among all the abundance of good things enumerated by our author, he never once mentions *consols*, *omnium*, *sink-*

Its Antiquity and Government.

According to the report of chronicles it is more ancient than the city of Rome; for both being descended from the same Trojan stock, Brute builded this before Remus and Romulus did the other. Whence still it useth the same ancient laws, and common institutions. For this our city, like to that, is distinguished by wards and several limits; it hath sheriffs every year, answerable to their consuls, it hath aldermen, enjoying the dignity of senators, besides inferior magistrates, it hath also common sewers, and conveyances for waters in the streets. Concerning causes in question, there are several places and courts, for causes deliberative, demonstrative, and judicial; upon their set days also they have their common council and great assemblies.

The only plagues of London are immoderate drinking of idle fellows, and frequent fires.

Of Sports and Pastimes.

Every Sunday in Lent, after dinner, a company of young men ride out into the fields on horses which are fit for war, and principal runners; every one among them is taught to run the rounds with his horse.

The citizens' sons issue out through the gates by troops, furnished with lances and warlike shields; the younger sorts have their pikes, not headed with iron, where they make a representation of battle, and exercise a skirmish. There resort to their exercise many courtiers, when the king lieth near hand, and young striplings out of the families of barons, and great persons which have not yet attained to the warlike girdle, to train and skirmish. Hope of victory inflames every one; the neighing and fierce horses bestir their joints, and chew their bridles, and cannot endure to stand still; at last they begin their race, and then, the young men divide their troops; some labour to outstrip their leaders, and cannot reach them; others fling down their fellows, and get beyond them.

In Easter holidays they counterfeit a seafight; a pole is set up in the middle of the river, with a target well fastened thereon, and a young man stands in a boat which is rowed with oars, and driven on with the tide, who, with his spear, hits the target in his passage; with which blow, if he breaks the spear and stand upright, so that he hold footing, he hath his desire; but if his spear continue unbroken by the blow, he is tumbled into the water, and his boat passeth clear away: but on either side this target, two ships stand in ward, with many young men ready to take him up after he is sunk, as soon as he appeareth again on the top of the water. The spectators stand upon the bridge, and in solars upon the water, to behold these things, being prepared for laughter.

Upon the holidays all summer, the youth is exercised in leaping, shooting, wrestling, casting of stones and throwing of javelins fitted with loops for the purpose, which they strive to fling beyond the mark; they also use bucklers like fighting men. As for the maidens they have their exercise of dancing and tripping till moonlight.

In winter, almost every holiday before dinner, the foaming boars fight for their heads, and prepare with deadly tushes to be made bacon; or else some lusty bulls, or huge bears are baited with dogs.

When that great moor which washeth moorfields at the north-wall of the city, is frozen over, great companies of young men go to sport upon the ice, and bind to their shoes, bones, as the legs of some beasts, and hold stakes in their hands, headed with sharp iron, which sometimes they strike against the ice: and these men go on with speed, as doth a bird in the air, or darts shot from some warlike engine.

Sometimes two men set themselves at a distance, and run one against another, as it were at tilt, with these stakes, wherewith one or both of these parties are thrown down, not without some hurt to their bodies; and after their fall, by reason of the violent motion, are carried a good distance one from another, and wheresoever the ice doth touch their head it rubs off all the skin

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ing-fund, nor even *bank-notes!* Are we to conclude from this omission, that the jolly citizens of London, in those days, knew of no such matters? *Quere*, how did they contrive to live so happily without them? T.

and lays it bare; and if one fall upon his leg or arm, it is usually broken; but young men being greedy of honour, and desirous of victory, do thus exercise themselves in counterfeit battles, that they may bear the brunt more strongly when they come to it in good earnest.

Many citizens take delight in birds, as sparrow-hawks, goss-hawks, and such like, and in dogs to hunt in the woody ground. The citizens have authority to hunt in Middlesex, Hertfordshire, all the Chilterns, and in Kent, as far as the Gray Water.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

(Continued from Page 265, No. IV.)

THE Report made by the Committee, on the 15th of July last, contained a general view of the objects proposed by the institution, with an answer to some popular objections that had been urged against the practicability of its plans. This report has been printed, and largely circulated, both in London and in every part of the united kingdom, and, as the Committee have reason to believe, has produced, wherever it has been circulated, an impression in favour of the institution.

The first care of the Committee has been to open a correspondence with such persons in Africa as were likely to be useful in promoting the Society's views. The persons to whom they have written are Mr. Ludlam, the Governor of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Torrane, the Governor of Cape Coast Castle.

They directed Mr. Ludlam's attention, in the first instance, to the important object of giving full effect to the act for abolishing the Slave Trade, requesting to be informed, from time to time, of the actual state of that trade (whether British or Foreign) on the coast; of the degree in which the abolition laws of Great Britain, and of other nations, are effectual; and, if ineffectual, by what means, and under what pretences they are evaded; and also what steps may be advantageously taken to prevent such evasion.

The Committee, however, were aware, that even the complete prevention of the export of slaves from the coast, might produce little immediate effect in civilizing Africa, unless something could be done to counteract those pernicious habits which the slave trade had nourished, and particularly to convince the native chiefs how essential it is to the prosperity of their country, that measures should be immediately adopted for insuring to their subjects the safe enjoyment of person and property.

The Committee directed Mr. Ludlam's attention to various other points, such as the best means of setting on foot journies of discovery, of promoting agriculture, of cultivating the friendship and confidence of the native powers, and of producing among them, a spirit of union and harmony. And besides requesting him to furnish the Committee with all the information in his power respecting the natural productions of Africa, its agricultural and commercial facilities, and the moral, intellectual, and political condition of its inhabitants: they particularly urged him, with a view to the success and stability of the colony of Sierra Leone, to employ the lights, which an experience of upwards of ten years had afforded him, in pointing out, with precision and in detail, the system of policy which appeared to him best suited to the circumstances of the colony, in regard to its interior management, and its relations with the African chiefs; and in regard also to the promotion of civilization, both within the colony, and, by means of the colony, among the surrounding natives.

The Committee, at the same time, empowered Mr. Ludlam to erect a school at Sierra Leone, under the patronage, and at the expense of the Institution, the object of which should be not merely to teach reading and writing, but to combine with these elementary branches of knowledge, instruction in agriculture and other useful arts. It was suggested, that to the school should be annexed a small

farm, which might be cultivated, either wholly or in part, by the labour of the scholars; and where they might be taught to raise, and prepare for market, articles of exportable produce, as well as to rear cattle and cultivate provisions. The state of the Society's funds obliged the Committee to direct that this seminary should be begun on a small scale, (though they wished it to be formed on a plan which should admit of its indefinite extension) and that until their funds would allow of its enlargement, care should be taken that the youths, selected for education, should be of such a rank as would give them influence over their countrymen in after life.

The Committee were encouraged to appropriate to this object a large proportion of their present funds, by the information received from Sierra Leone, that several of the African youths, who had been educated in England by the Sierra Leone Company, were filling offices of trust in the colony with credit to themselves and satisfaction to their employers.

The Committee having learnt that there are now in this country two African youths, about the age of 19 or 20, who have been enjoying, by means of the Sierra Leone company, the benefits of education for the last six or seven years, and that it was intended they should return in no long time to Africa, resolved so take upon themselves the expense of having them fully initiated in Dr. Bell's system of education. Measures are now taking with this view, and the Committee trust that they shall be able, in no long time, to transplant to Africa this cheap and expeditious method of instruction, a boon which may be productive of incalculable benefits to the inhabitants of that continent.

The Committee are of opinion, that the cultivation of the African soil, and a trade in the produce of that country, might be encouraged by the distribution of medals, or other honorary rewards, to such persons as may distinguish themselves by the most successful exertions in these pursuits; but they have not as yet specifically determined the objects to which such rewards should be applied, and the extent to which it would be proper to carry them. They are also of opinion, that measures might be advantageously taken for engaging in America, or the West Indies, persons of good character, natives of Africa, or the descendants of Africans, who should instruct the colonists and natives in the cultivation and manufacture of indigo; in the best mode of raising and cleaning cotton, rice, and other articles of tropical culture. The prosecution of these measures must, of course, depend on the extent of the Society's funds.

In the consideration of the various articles of exportable produce, which may be cultivated with advantage in Africa, the attention of the Committee has been particularly drawn to cotton. With the mode of raising the cotton tree the natives of the western coast of Africa are almost universally acquainted, although the particular species of cotton grown there (and from which they manufacture cloth of an excellent fabric) is so unsuitable to the English market, that the prices which it would obtain, would not repay the expense of raising it, and conveying it to this country. As the natives of Africa, however, are already familiarized to the culture of cotton; as it requires only six or seven months from the time of sowing the seed, to bring it to maturity; and as the process of preparing it for sale is short and simple, it appeared to the Committee to be a matter of great importance to introduce among them the seed of a superior species of this plant. They accordingly applied to Mr. Alderman Shaw, and Mr. Alderman Prinsep, to use their good offices in procuring for them, the former from Georgia, the latter from the Brazils, a quantity of the best kinds of cotton seed; and from both these gentlemen they have received the most satisfactory promises of assistance. Subsequently to this application, a cargo of cotton, of a very excellent quality, which had not been freed from the seed, arrived in the river Thames. Through the interference of Messrs. Hardcastle and Rayner, two zealous

friends to the improvement of Africa, the purchaser of this cotton has agreed, that the seed, which is found to be in a state of perfect preservation, shall be wholly at the disposal of the Committee. A large quantity of it therefore, put up in small packages, so as to admit of its easy distribution, will be ready for transmission by the first conveyance.

By means of the same gentlemen who have favoured the Institution in this instance, a plentiful supply of seed of the best kind of cotton, though not in an equal state of preservation with that just mentioned, had been procured from a large cotton manufacturer at Manchester; and an opportunity has been taken of sending a part of it to Sierra Leone, by a vessel which left the river about a fortnight ago.

The Committee are aware, that it may be objected to this attempt to extend the cultivation of cotton, that the supply of that article is already equal to the demand; and that therefore the measures pursued by the Committee are impolitic. But they would observe in reply to this objection, that cotton is an article the growth of which in Africa will occasion less of competition with our own colonies, than almost any other article of tropical produce which could be named; and that it is important to be preparing sources from which a supply of cotton may be drawn, should circumstances arise to interrupt our commercial relations with America, or with the other places which now furnish it. But independently of these considerations it may be presumed, that in proportion as the natives of Africa supply us with the raw material, they will be capable of paying for a larger quantity of the manufactured article.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN your last Magazine a writer signed Censor, so far engaged my attention as to draw from me some observations which I do not hesitate to submit to the public, through your impartial publication.

Censor *appears* on the side of justice and liberality. He censures freely, yet leaves himself open to deep wounds from the hands of any who are in the habit of wielding literary weapons. Censor though a professed advocate of Catholic Emancipation, observes, *however, that it is a subject perplexed with difficulties, arising from the passions of the two opposite parties.* Convincing arguments might be adduced to prove, that the penal and excluding laws are the cause of the passions alluded to. Where then is the difficulty by removing the cause, to remove the effect? or does Censor mean to take the subject by the wrong end, and to remove the cause by removing the effect? If he does, he will meet with difficulties and perplexities. I fondly hope he does not look or wish for them, yet, whenever I meet an attempt to equalize the passions of the oppressors and the oppressed, I am strongly inclined to suspect that the author belongs to the former class, whatever garb he may wear.

Censor, after some just and liberal reflections on the reviewer of Mr. Parnell's "History of the Penal Laws," finds fault with another writer, who, he says, *appears to have flattered the prejudices of the Catholic body, by praising them for remaining independent of the crown of Britain, in the appointment of their Bishops; and by commending them at the same time for their dependance on the See of Rome.* This, Censor considers as a glaring inconsistency, and takes occasion from it to deplore the weakness, the errors, the contradictions of human nature. While I join my lamentations to those of Censor, he will pardon me if I say, that there appears to me a greater subject for them in his reasoning than in that which he condemns. The inconsistency which he points out, proceeds solely from the confusion in which his ideas are involved; and if we but simplify and regulate the ideas, the inconsistency will disappear.

Censor's expressions of *dependance on the See of Rome,* mean too much or prove nothing. The present mode of appointing bishops, differs, it is well known, from the strict canonical mode, originally practised in the Catholic Church, which was by election. Any

thing like this mode became utterly impracticable in this country, when the electors and the candidates were proscribed by law, and when priest-catching as well as fox-hunting became a lawful amusement. Even under the present circumstances, I do not think that *a free* election would be very practicable, until the Catholic clergy are put on a more independent footing. The nomination, then, of their bishops necessarily fell to the See of Rome, at the wish and desire of the Catholics of Ireland. Let us now inquire what the See of Rome is. I will tell Censor that it is not that foreign despotism which the gross ignorance or furious prejudice of brawling corporation orators represents. In it there is no civil authority either claimed or allowed; no temporal emolument accrues to it from this country. Its authority is purely spiritual, and even in this spiritual authority there is nothing arbitrary; certain tenets, certain bounds and limits are established from the beginning; and a bishop in his diocese, or even a priest in his parish has his separate rights, which the See of Rome cannot invade. It watches over the universal Church, and if it attempts to defend or to propagate the Catholic Religion, it is only by evangelical means. There cannot be a difference between the see of Rome and the Catholics of Ireland, in their wish to see the Catholic Church of Ireland governed by worthy bishops. And if we consult experience, we see that the present mode of appointing bishops has given to the Catholics down to the present day, a succession of virtuous and exemplary prelates.

We now see to what our dependance on the see of Rome, which appears to Censor in so formidable a light, is reduced. It affects neither civil authority, nor civil liberty in this country: and it gives us such Bishops as we ought to wish for. Can we say so much of our dependance on the crown, in the nomination of our Bishops? We may consider the question under two points of view; this dependance either regards us as citizens of the British empire, or as Catholics. First then it is manifest that this dependance would increase the influence of the crown; and it was declared some years ago, by a vote of the House of Commons of Great Britain, that the *influence of the crown had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished.* Secondly, if we consider it as Catholics, we must see that it involves the ruin of our religion. To prove this it is sufficient to remark, what no man can deny, that it is a leading maxim of the English cabinet, to discountenance Popery, and that it never betrayed a greater zeal, or a keener desire for that object, than within the last twenty years.

But methinks, I hear myself called upon in a commanding voice, by a phalanx of splendid families, and splendid fortunes, who seem to be embodied for some time past, for the purpose of leading or driving the Catholic body. They tell me I misrepresent; that there is no question of a dependance on the crown, in the nomination of our Bishops; that there is *only* "a question of granting to his majesty a limited *veto*, under certain rules and restrictions, which would render it impossible for his majesty's ministers ever to attempt any thing injurious to our religion." With all due respect for these rich* and honourable men; for their knowledge of mankind, their zeal for religion, their piety, their charity, and their disinterestedness, I may be allowed to offer my sentiments: I have heard the plan laid down more than once; the rules, the conditions, the restrictions, are clear and satisfactory: but where is our security for the observance of them? I shall repeat the reasoning of a friend on this subject, to whom I listened with attention, when lately in the capital; it appeared to me somewhat like demonstration. This veto plan, said my friend, is a treaty between two parties; the stipulations are clearly specified, and are established on rational principles; but there is on the one side, irresistible power; on the other, no power whatsoever; there is no guarantee; there is then no security for the observance of the treaty; no certainty that the *veto* will not be changed into a *Mandamus*, and expediency substituted for right. I

* The rich man in the gospel, is not the favourite of Religion.

may be reminded, said my friend, of the great moral principles, which pervade the universe, which bind man to man, and nation to nation; I am ready to grant, said he, that they are sometimes acted upon, and are then a bulwark of security. But I cannot think that this is always the case; for though a pagan philosopher teaches *that nothing can be politically right which is morally wrong;* yet christian cabinets are often actuated by different principles. Whether the English cabinet will hereafter think itself bound in the veto business to submit to the great principles of justice and good faith, we can only ascertain from its past conduct. Let that conduct be fairly determined, and in doing so, let us not go far back, lest obscurity might be pretended, and a change of manners, and a change of times be alleged; let us take the period nearest to us, from the infraction of the articles of Limerick, to the union inclusively; and say, if we are to judge of the future by the past, what must be our conclusion?

But, Mr. Editor, I fear I have trespassed on your time, and extended my observations too far for the limits of your publication. I have shown Censor, the fallacy and futility of his arguments; he compares terms which are not similar, and which do not bear a comparison. This is a source of error by which the authors of arguments may be misled, as well as those to whom the arguments are addressed. To avoid it, I would advise Censor never to raise a structure of reasoning on complex ideas, without first examining their foundation and soundness. Are the simpler ideas of which they are composed, founded on nature? are they well assorted, and closely and firmly united? If they are, he may with confidence proceed to enlarge and to embellish his building; but if they are not, at the first shock, *mole sua ruit,* and leaves not a trace behind.

CRITICUS.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

WHEN I was first made acquainted with the intended publication of your Magazine, I hailed it as a happy era in the literary history of my country, anticipating the most beneficial result from such an undertaking, the general plan of which announced an intention to open such sources of knowledge, both local and general, as might eventually tend towards the improvement and amelioration of the condition of my countrymen.

For it will not be denied, either by the philosopher or the moralist, who has made human nature his study, that the progress of intellect in any country will be in proportion to the means of information its inhabitants have access to; by weighing and comparing the opinions of others on various subjects the mind is furnished with food for reflection, and when once the reflecting powers are set in motion, it is their nature to be progressive; by these means man begins to feel his own dignity; by habituating himself to think, his ideas assume a degree of consistency, and rising in the scale of rationality, he is enabled to acquire that integrity of principle, and that independence of thought, which, under the most trying contingencies, cannot fail of yielding him consolation and support. If an increase of virtue and happiness be the consequence of an increase of the diffusion of knowledge, every thing which tends to promote a purpose so noble and comprehensive, ought to meet with encouragement and support from the public at large. And it is with pleasure I observe your attention has been so much turned to things really useful, without at the same time wholly neglecting the entertaining; a proportion of which, when not suffered to sink into matter merely frivolous, ought to find a place in the pages of such a work. The grand fault of all the periodical publications which have hitherto appeared in this country (as far at least as I am capable of judging) has been in aiming so much at the *latter*, that they have nearly overlooked the *former*, and instead of adding to our stock of knowledge by enlarging our ideas on different subjects, or giving a just bias to the public taste, they have rather tended to enervate the mind; no wonder that they should have sunk into merited

oblivion. I hope better things of your promising protegée.

As your avowed object in undertaking the work, was the instruction and entertainment of the public, I presume that any matter which has a tendency to promote the one, or contribute towards the other, will not be altogether unacceptable, let it come from where it may; this consideration has induced me to offer a few remarks on a subject which appears to me to be of national moment, and which more than any other, is calculated to nurture those false notions of honour, and keep alive that spirit of resentment, so destructive in their nature, of those principles of charity and benevolence, which tend to bind man to man: I mean the barbarous practice of duelling. What dreadful effects are produced by it! the peace and happiness of families invaded and destroyed, and all to gratify what? an empty, absurd notion of honour! I could have wished that in attempting to discuss a subject which affects the moral interests of society so much, a person better qualified had undertaken it; but whatever deficiency I may feel in *argument*, to enable me to exhibit the enormity of the practice in its native colours, I hope I shall be able amply to supply, from the remarks of a celebrated author who has lately written on the same subject, and which will, I expect, be found to merit the attention of your readers. He thus expresses himself.

"This detestable practice (of duelling) was originally invented by barbarians, for the gratification of revenge. It was probably at that time thought a very happy project for reconciling the odiousness of malignity, with the gallantry of courage.

"But in this light it is now generally given up. Men of the best understanding, who lend it their sanction, are unwillingly induced to do so, and engage in single combat, merely that their reputation may sustain no slander.

"Which of these two actions is the truest test of courage? the engaging in a practice which our judgment disapproves, because we cannot submit to the consequences of following that judgment; or the doing what we believe to be right, and chearfully encountering all the consequences that may be annexed to the practice of virtue?

"With what patience can a man of virtue think of cutting off the life of a fellow mortal, or of putting an abrupt close to all the generous projects he may himself conceive for the benefit of others, merely because he has not firmness enough to awe impertinence and falsehood into silence?

"If there be any meaning in courage, its first ingredient must be the daring to speak the truth at all times, to all persons, and in every possible situation. What is it but the want of courage that should prevent me from saying, "Sir, I ought to refuse your challenge. What I ought to do, that I dare do. Have I injured you? I will readily and without compulsion repair my injustice to the uttermost mite. Have you misconstrued me? State to me the particulars, and doubt not that what is true I will make appear to be true. Thus far I will go. But though I should be branded for a coward by all mankind, I will not repair to the scene of deliberate murder. I will not do an act that I know to be flagitious. I will exercise my judgment upon every proposition that comes before me, the dictates of that judgment I will speak; and upon them I will form my conduct." He that holds this language with a countenance in unison with his word, will never be suspected of acting from the impulse of fear."

In these observations our author has, I think, with much force and energy of expression, clearly proved that it requires a greater portion of *real* courage and self-possession, to resist such a custom, sanctioned by the world, than for a man by joining in with it, to risk his own existence; in the one case (regardless of the sneers and reproaches which most probably await him) he stands forth the champion of his species, and the friend of humanity; whilst in the other he has *a chance* of escaping, and should he fall, he may have the satisfaction of reflecting that he dies like *a gentleman:* yet surely this high wrought sense of honour (which in its operation so often leads to dishonour and misery) cannot altogether stifle the calls of nature, or smother the sensibilities of the heart,

at least it will afford but small consolation to the wife and family of its victim (should he have left either behind) when they are made acquainted with the fatal consequences produced by it; deprived of the counsel and support of him, whom on all occasions they were used to look up to as their protector and friend. Left alone in the world! doomed, perhaps, to struggle with adversity, "to bear the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune," without that well known voice, which could even rob misfortune of half its sting, to cheer and comfort them! If the evil could be confined to that class of society who profess to be the leaders of fashion, and who, troubling themselves but little about the happiness or misery of their fellow creatures, are content to "fret their hour upon the stage," and then pass off to make way for others equally *worthy*, the mischief would not be so great, but unfortunately this is not the case; the force of example has such a powerful influence, that many whose education, would, perhaps, have led them to act very differently, seized with this mania, are hurried headlong to an untimely grave! Such are the dismal effects too often produced by this savage custom! Pause, therefore, ye votaries of fashion, behold the baneful influence of your example! Reflect upon the consequences, ye who in your intercourse with society, scorn to do a mean or unworthy action, yet are rashly impelled by a false idea of honour, to act contrary to the suggestions of reason and of virtue, before you risk precipitating yourselves and others into this gulph of misery! Behold the agony and grief of your wives and children; consider the calamities which your blind imprudence is likely to entail upon them; suffer the benign influence of humanity to take possession of your minds, and if the heart be not lost to every finer feeling, when these considerations are suffered to have due weight, weak, indeed, will appear all the flimsy pretensions of honour. Should you think these remarks worthy a place in your Magazine, they are at your service.

A FRIEND.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOUR intelligent correspondent, A. Z. gives an excellent method of saving Bees; yet he omits a very important part, that of feeding them when they have not a sufficiency of honey. Permit me, through the medium of your useful work, to request A. Z. or any other of your readers who may be sufficiently informed on the subject, to communicate his opinion to the public.

Bangor. A FARMER.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

Communications on Potatoes, by Dr. Wright of Edinburgh. (Extracted from the Report of the Board of Agriculture, in England.)

POTATOE FLOUR.

IN the simple analysis of the potatoe, we find it is composed of three distinct and essential principles. First, a mucilaginous juice, which has no peculiar properties. Secondly, a fibrous, light and gray-coloured matter, like that contained in the roots of many pot-herbs. Thirdly, a dry powder resembling starch from grain. To obtain this powder, the process is easy: the fresh potatoes must be washed clean, and grated into a clean vessel; this pulp is next put into a hair-sieve, and mixed with cold water; when by repeated effusions of water, the strainings are no longer white or milky, what remains in the search may be put to one side; the strained liquor is suffered to settle, and the brown coloured water, drained off and thrown away. Repeated quantities of cold water are then poured on the white hard mass, well stirred up each time; and when settled, and the water poured off till the sediment is perfectly white, this matter is then taken out, and the lumps broken down, and put

upon paper to dry. If the potatoe is ground by means of a wheel grater, or cylinder shod with a grater, the process will be shortened. A hopper may be adapted to one side of the grater, in such a manner as to assist in rubbing down the potatoe, without putting to the hand.

This powder of the potatoe is obtained in different proportions, according to the goodness of the potatoe itself: at an average, two ounces of the powder may be got from one pound of potatoes. Potatoe flour or powder thus made, is no way different from starch made from grain; and answers many purposes in domestic economy. Bowen's Sago powder is no other than the starch of potatoes; as the Tapioca from Brazil is the starch of Cassada. These articles are sold in the shops at an advanced price; and as the Sago powder was laid in by government, for the sick, in ships of war, it may be now made in any quantity, and at a trifling expense.

Potatoe flour makes all sorts of pastry of a superior quality to common wheat flour, and if mixed with sweet milk, eggs, and sugar, in due proportions, makes excellent custards, or puddings.

POTATOE BREAD.

The most mealy potatoes are to be chosen: when boiled and peeled, they are beaten and rolled smooth on a table with a rolling-pin; then kneaded with an equal quantity of wheat flour, with a sufficiency of yeast, water and salt (this, bakers call sponge) the dough is set for a night in a warm place, and by next morning, if the yeast is good, it will have risen, and is ready to be made into loaves, rolls, &c. This bread is much lighter and sweeter than flour bread, and keeps moist for many days. All will depend on kneading the dough well, and keeping it long enough in the oven, till it is thoroughly baked. Yeast. This article at times is very scarce: to increase its quantity is an object of importance to the bakers of bread. Several bakers of my acquaintance, have taken the hint from me, and now are no way at a loss for yeast. Potatoes boiled and skinned are put into a sufficient quantity of water, and boiled over a slow fire till the whole becomes smooth, and of the consistence of pap. To two English gallons of this, an English quart of good yeast is added; the vessel set in a warm place, twelve or sixteen hours, when the whole becomes yeast of a good quality, and fit for the purposes of the baker as well as the brewer.

In the present advancing prices of flour, it may be worthy the attention of families to try the experiments as recommended above. Potatoe flour is a good starch, and mixed with wheaten flour, makes a very nice light bread. The mode recommended without reducing the potatoes to the form of flour, has been tried at the public bakery of Lisburn, and found to answer. An addition of from six to eight stones of potatoes to a bag containing 2 cwt. of third flour, has been found to improve the quality of the bread, and to afford an increase of three ounces to the thirteen-penny brown loaf.

The yeast as recommended in the foregoing paper, has been also tried at the Lisburn public bakery, and found to answer very well, making the bread both lighter and fairer, with a considerable saving of expense in the article of barm. It is particularly useful in summer, when barm is scarce.

A Statical Lamp, which maintains the Oil at nearly an equal level.

THIS Lamp has a spherical cavity, communicating by a pipe, with an oil vessel, and burner, formed on Argand's, or the common construction, that is somewhat higher than it; within this cavity, a solid of a hemispherical shape is suspended, on a horizontal axis, the greatest part of which will float above a strong brine, with which the cavity, is half-filled; the pipe, burner, and oil vessel, are filled with oil, and as this is consumed, the brine running in to supply its place below, raises it to a proper height, while the hemispherical solid occupies the space left by the brine in the cavity, by falling lower as the brine passes beneath the oil. The principle of this apparatus is produced by the great specific weight of the brine, which keeps the oil at a proportionally higher elevation, the use of the solid hemisphere is to preserve the level of the brine. An instrument of this kind is said to have been many years ago con-

trived by Dr. Hooke. The above is described in the Philosophical Journal, in a paper signed, A. F.

Stand for Shoemaker's work.

Mr. Thomas Parker has contrived a bench at which shoemakers can work in a standing posture; it consists of a perforated board, whose edge is surrounded with a cushion, covered with leather, and supported by four legs; it thus somewhat resembles a bason-stand. It is four feet high, the perforation is about six inches in diameter; the shoe and last are laid across the above annular cushions, and is retained firmly by an end cross strap, which passes round it, and descends to a treadle, on which the workman rests his foot: a little flat leather cushion, used in adjusting the last and strap, and a small triangular prism of wood, on which boots are closed, complete the apparatus. Mr. Parker received fifteen guineas for this contrivance, from the Society for Arts, &c.

Hawthorn propagated by Cuttings of the Roots.

Mr. Taylor, of Morton, has discovered, that hawthorn hedges may be formed in a more expeditious manner than usual, by cutting the roots of this shrub into small pieces, and placing them with the top one-fourth of an inch above the ground; the upper end of each piece may be marked, when cutting, by giving it two cuts, and the lower end but one.

The spring is the best time to plant the sets. Of those planted by Mr. Taylor, not five in one hundred were lost. For this discovery Mr. Taylor received the silver medal from the Society for arts, &c.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

MEMOIR OF THE LIFE OF THE REV. THEOPHILUS LINDSAY, A. M. FORMERLY FELLOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, AND VICAR OF CATTERICK IN YORKSHIRE.

PRINCIPLE is so extremely valuable, that when a striking instance of it appears, in opposition to the prevailing selfishness of the age, it is doing a service to the community to let such characters reflect their lustre, and be generally spread, that their excellent example may not be lost, but encourage others to similar faithfulness. The use of those examples is not lessened, whether we agree in opinion with such exhibiters of principle or not. It is a strict and honourable adherence to *principle*, which deserves to be held up to imitation, and which is the more necessary in the present day, when so much casuistry has been employed to reconcile the subscribing to one set of doctrines, and the believing in another. A man should honestly avow his sentiments, and patiently submit to the inconvenience of holding them. If he believes them to be true, a consciousness of upright intention, wonderfully supports a man under every difficulty, while *if he has not the approbation of his own mind*, the possession of wealth or other enjoyments, will not confer permanent felicity. We therefore take the opportunity of making our readers acquainted with the character of Theophilus Lindsay, recently deceased, and so well known in England, for his undaunted assertion of thinking for himself, and for which he nobly made great worldly sacrifices. For the particulars in the annexed sketch, we are indebted to the London Monthly Magazine, of last month. Care has been taken to leave out such parts, as might have a tendency to lead into theological controversy; as the aim is rather to display a man acting according to the strict dictates of conscience, than to enter into the merits of the opinions, which he held.

Theophilus Lindsay was born at Middlewich, in Cheshire, June 20th, 1723, old style. His father Mr. Robert Lindsay, was an opulent proprietor of the salt-works there, and highly esteemed for his integrity and worth; and his mother was an excellent and

pious woman, of the name of Spencer, in the county of Buckingham, a younger branch of the Spencer family. Theophilus was the second of three children, and so named after his god-father Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, to whom Mrs. Lindsay and her children were greatly indebted for many instances of kindness and protection, after the death of her husband. Theophilus received the rudiments of learning at the grammar school of Middlewich, and being of a delicate constitution, and attached to books, almost from his infancy, he was, from an early age, intended by his mother for the church. At length it was resolved at the desire of Lady Anne Hastings, the particular friend of his mother, that he should be placed under the care of Mr. Barnard, master of the free school at Leeds. Here he made a rapid progress in classical learning, and from his worthy and truly excellent preceptor, imbibed those active principles of piety and benevolence, to which his tender heart had always been inclined, and which in every future period of his life, shone forth most conspicuously.

At the age of eighteen, Mr. Lindsay was admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he availed himself of every advantage which his situation afforded, and by the most exemplary diligence, and moral conduct, obtained the entire approbation of his tutors.

Having finished his studies at College, taken his first degree, and been admitted to Deacon's orders, he was nominated by Sir George Wheeler, to a chapel in Spital Square, London. He had not been in this office quite two years, when, at the particular recommendation of the Earl of Huntingdon, he was appointed domestic chaplain to Algernon, Duke of Somerset. In this, as in every situation of life, he obtained the respect and affection of those with whom he was connected. The Duke from an ardent attachment to his talents and virtues, determined to procure him a high rank in the church; but an early death deprived Mr. Lindsay of his illustrious patron. For some time he remained with the Duchess, till the health of her grandson, the present Duke of Northumberland, requiring a change of climate, she prevailed upon him to accompany the young nobleman to the South of France. This was about the year 1754, and the excursion proved as beneficial to the health of the tutor, as it was favourable to that of his pupil. On their return, the late Duke wished Mr. Lindsay to supply a temporary vacancy of a good living in the north of England, called Kirkby Wisk. To this he readily acceded, as it called him to the discharge of the pastoral duty, which was peculiarly acceptable to his mind. At Kirkby he became acquainted with Archdeacon Blackburne; and being always a diligent reader of the Scriptures, and having an ardent thirst for theological truth, it was not surprizing that an intimate friendship should be formed between them. Mr. Lindsay's residence in the north was short. When he had been at Kirkby about two years, the living of Piddletown, in Dorsetshire, becoming vacant by the death of Dr. Dawney, and being in the gift of the Earl of Huntingdon, it was presented to him at the desire of Lady Anne Hastings, the aunt of Lord Huntingdon, and the original patroness of Mr. Lindsay. This was considered by that noble lady only as an introduction to much higher preferment,* which she considered fully within his reach, through the interest of Bishop Butler, and other persons of great influence in the state.

In the year 1760, during his residence at Piddletown, he visited his friend Archdeacon Blackburne, and formed a connection with, and married his daughter-in-law, who proved to him, as we shall see in the sequel, no common help-mate, and to whom, with respect to her present situation, may be applied with strict justice, what was said of another excellent lady. She "whose masculine mind understood, and was in unison with all his principles, is pre-eminently distinguished

* The future biographer of this excellent man will be put into possession of facts that will unquestionably prove that he declined embracing offers which he knew would infallibly have led to the very highest honours of the church.

by her loss; she has the remembrance of his talents and virtues to console her, which none can enjoy but those who, like her, possess his spirit." See Jebb's Works, vol. I, page 233.

In the year 1764, Mr. Lindsay was enabled, through the interest of Lord Huntingdon, to exchange the living of Piddletown for that of Catterick, in Yorkshire, in order that he might be near his friends. Here he resided nearly ten years, an exemplary pattern of a primitive and most conscientious pastor, instructing the young persons of a large parish; preaching or lecturing twice every Sunday; visiting the sick, admonishing with parental affection, the thoughtless and unwary, and superintending the schools for the poor.

Besides his various and highly important duties as a parish clergyman, Mr. Lindsay was ever alive, and heartily active, in every cause in which the principles of truth and right reason were concerned. We accordingly find him, in the year 1771, zealously co-operating with Archdeacon Blackburne, Mr. afterwards Dr. John Jebb, Mr. Wyvil, and other respectable characters, in endeavouring to obtain relief in matters of subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles. The business originated in the Confessional of Mr. Blackburne, who afterwards, urged by his friends, drew up proposals for an application to Parliament.

In the autumn of 1771, Mr. Lindsay, in a letter on this subject, to his confidential friend, Mr. Jebb, says, "I own to you, Sir, I cannot but be greatly interested in a cause, in which I bless God that I have an opportunity to engage, and declare myself, and for which I do not know, with the help of God, the pains or sufferings that I would refuse." He then speaks of the small success he had met with in obtaining signatures to the petition; and of his unabating zeal to proceed by writing, and personal application: "I have offered (says he) and if health be permitted, will carry the petition to Kendal, in Westmoreland; to Newcastle, in Northumberland; to York, and Wakefield; all places at a very great distance from me, and in which labours I am alone, without any assistance whatever." The result of Mr. Lindsay's long journey was the addition of a few names only to the petition; it was, however, in the end, signed by about two hundred persons, and presented to parliament, on the 6th of February, 1772; but after a long, very animated, and interesting debate, rejected by a large majority. After this event, so unfavourable to his hopes, Mr. Lindsay writes to the same friend, "I trust our cause, the cause of truth, will be as much advantaged by their unreasonable obstinacy, as it would have been by their honest and chearful suffrage for it."

Mr. Lindsay had already written to a friend, who has since quitted the church, upon the same subject, and in reference to it, he says, "I have our cause greatly at heart, though with little power to serve it, but which I gladly exert to the utmost; and by the blessing of God, and the full concurrence *(quæ quoque currentem incitat)* of my wife, I hope I shall be ready to run any hazard or loss to promote it." He had, in a former letter, referred to the zeal of Mrs. Lindsay, in the same business, as one "that was ready to run any hazards for its sake."

About this period, an anonymous writer, under the signature of Lælius, seems to have publicly started the subject of persons remaining in the church who could not conscientiously conform to her principles; to this Mr. Lindsay most feelingly alludes. "The subject of Lælius's last letter may give one many a pang, I cannot say that I have been for many years, a day free from uneasiness about it. Farewell." This pathetic sentence was written, March 2nd, 1773, and in the following September he seems to have made up his mind decidedly on this important subject. "I think," says he, "you must have perceived in my letters, perhaps, in my conversation, a dissatisfiedness with our ecclesiastical impositions, and a tendency to relieve myself from them. This, indeed, had taken place long before our association was formed, and the execution only suspended, and retarded by it, though some pleasing expectation was formed, that providence might unexpectedly give such a turn to our endeavours, as might make me easy, or give me liberty to make myself easy. But as my chief dissatisfaction is with

those Trinitarian forms that pervade the whole liturgy, all hope of that kind is entirely cut off. The resolution I have formed of retiring, has been absolutely fixed for some time, and will take place in a few months. It was absolutely necessary, for my own peace with God, which is to be preferred above all considerations; but I have found great difficulties and opposition already, and expect to find more. My greatest comfort and support, under God, is my wife, who is a christian indeed, and worthy of a better fate, in worldly things, than we have a prospect of; for we leave a station of ease and abundance, attended with many other agreeable circumstances. But, thanks be to God, we have not given way to ease and indulgence, and can be content with little."

On the 12th of November he wrote to the prelate of his diocese, informing him of his intention to quit the church, and signifying that in a few days he should transmit to him the deed of resignation. On the same day he wrote a long letter to Mrs. Jebb, in which he says, "I have never had the least doubt from the first moment I resolved on the step I am now about to take, that it was right, and my duty. I have had some subsequent hope too, that it might serve our cause, and the cause of God's truth. I bless the God of Heaven for myself and my wife, who is destined to bear a great part of the burthen; that as difficulties encrease, and they must encrease the nearer the time approaches, our resolution and courage encrease; and I have no doubt but the promises made to faithful servants will be fulfilled to us, that we shall have strength proportioned to our trial, and want of it." At this time, he was busy in printing his Apology, which he published almost immediately on his resignation.

The reader must have seen with what firmness, but at the same time, deliberation, caution and prudence, Mr. Lindsay acted in this important business, and nothing could exceed the satisfaction he felt when he had accomplished the task, of which an extract from his own letter to Mr. Jebb, dated 5th of December 1773, will give a just idea. Speaking of the encouragement and comfort he had derived from his friend's correspondence, he adds, "if I had been opposed and condemned by all my friends, by all the world, in what I have been long meditating, and have now accomplished, I must have done it. The track of duty was so plain and straight, I must have been abandoned to every moral principle, not to have gone on in it. I have no doubt, but that I shall have encreasing joy in what I have done, to the latest day of my life, and I feel myself delivered from a load which has long lain heavy upon me, and at times nearly overwhelmed me. The Bishop of Chester, my diocesan, has behaved with great friendship, and kindly wished and sought to have prevented my taking such a step; and the same has been endeavoured by other great friends, and various expedients proposed. But I now only wonder I did not sooner make my retreat, and I am persuaded that will be the general cry of many when they see my "Apology."

Previously to his quitting Catterick, Mr. Lindsay delivered a farewell address to his parishioners, with whom he had lived in terms of the greatest harmony and friendship; to them he states his motives in a simple and very affecting manner, pointing out the reasons why he could no longer conduct their worship, "without the guilt of continual insincerity before God, and endangering the loss of his favour for ever." Nevertheless the separation was no light thing; it cost him many a pang, and occasionally filled his mind with an almost overwhelming anxiety. "To leave," says he, "a station of ease and affluence, and to have to combat with the various straits and hardships of an uncertain world, affords but a dark prospect. But we must willingly submit to this hard lot, when not to be avoided without deserting our duty to God and his truth." He had, however, the high satisfaction of being able to appeal to his hearers, in the language of the Apostle, "I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel. In nothing have I made a gain of you, or sought to enrich myself; nor am I enriched by you at all; but what was over and above the supply of necessary wants, has been freely expended in different ways, in which it was thought might be most

useful to your present benefit and future happiness. I have not sought yours, but you."

Mr. Lindsay arrived in London, in January 1774, where he met with some valuable friends, who chearfully and zealously patronized the idea of opening a place of worship, devoted entirely to Unitarian principles. The difficulty was, in finding a place that should be respectable and commodious, and at the same time free from any heavy expenses, which at that period could not be well borne by those who embarked in the undertaking. A room of this kind, in a few weeks, offered itself in Essex-street, in the Strand, which was immediately taken and fitted up for the purpose. Obstacles of a new kind now presented themselves, much time was lost, and many unsuccessful efforts were made in obtaining a license. Some of his more eager friends wished Mr. Lindsay to proceed without obtaining a legal title to assemble; but Mr. Lee, afterwards his Majesty's Solicitor General, who was his most ardent friend, dissuaded him from such a step, assuring him, at the same time, that if, upon any pretence, a refusal was given by the magistrates, he would move the court of King's-bench, for a mandamus. Renewed applications were made, but without effect, till Mr. Lee himself went to Hick's-hall. "He came," says Mr. Lindsay, "like a lion; desired to see the entry that had been given into court, to license a place of worship for a society of Dissenters; he was sorry such unusual obstructions had been put to so legal a demand: he understood that it had been said by some, that the justices had a discretionary power in such cases; they were mistaken; they were merely official; and if they refused, a mandamus from the King's-bench should compel them; he hoped, however, that the great Magna Charta of the religious liberties of Englishmen, was not now going to be attacked." The justices admitted they had no discretionary power, but something being said with regard to the doctrine to be preached, and the minister to officiate, he told them these were subsequent facts and matters of inquiry, that the house of worship was the object before them, and they were bound to make a record of it. To this at length they assented, and the certificate was ordered to be delivered the next week.

Mr. Lindsay now felt all the satisfaction of his new pursuits, that he could have anticipated; he speaks again and again, with rapture, of the pleasure which he felt in being disentangled from human creeds; and in reference to his success, he says, with that spirit of modesty which ever accompanied all that he said, and every effort which he made, "I have met with respect more than I could expect or deserve, and friends who have contributed to defray the expenses of fitting up, rent, &c. of our chapel; much of this has been from strangers, most of them Dissenters." In the same letter he writes, "I am now a Dissenter myself, and so far more at liberty than I was, and I am happy in it; nay, I would say to you, I glory in it." The extracts that have been transcribed from Mr. Lindsay's letters to his bosom friend, will exhibit, it is presumed, in a more striking manner than any description, the bent and tenour of his mind in the most trying scenes of his life. His way was now comparatively smooth, and in the high estimation of friends of the first rank in society, and the first talents in the state, and in literature, he might be said to begin to reap the fruits of his disinterestedness and integrity.

In every character of life which this excellent man sustained, he acted his part with honour, integrity, and the highest respectability; and his memory will be cherished to the last hour of life, by those who had the happiness of being admitted to his society and friendship. Others equally devout, equally humble, equally deserving, will be forgotten, when the name of Theophilus Lindsay shall be held in high estimation; because to humility, piety and perseverance, he adds a courageous avowal of the truth.

Till the summer of 1793, Mr. Lindsay himself, with the aid of his friend, Dr. Disney, conducted the services of the place. He then resigned the whole into the hands of his able coadjutor, notwithstanding the earnest wishes of his hearers that he should continue a part of the services: to his friends he

acknowledged a sense of their kindness, and also to Dr. Disney, who had readily and handsomely offered to perform all the duty that he was unable to discharge himself, but he chose rather to make his retreat while he was in the full possession of his faculties, to meet, as he expresses it, "the unavoidable infirmities of nature, in a private station; and if I may not be wholly useless therein, it will complete the innumerable blessings with which my life has been crowned, of which the greatest of all is a capacity and opportunity of being serviceable to others, in promoting the cause of truth and virtue."

The life of this excellent man could not be useless; till he had attained his eightieth year, he did not cease to instruct by his pen, though he had chosen to retire from the pulpit. In the year 1802 he published his last work, entitled, "Conversations on the Divine Government, showing that every thing is from God, and for good to all." The object of this work was, as the title imports, to vindicate his maker from those gloomy notions which are too often attached to his providence, and to show that the government of this world is the wisest that could have been adopted, and that the evils and distresses of life are not permitted, but for the good of all. It must be acknowledged that a work of a better tendency could not have been left as the last legacy of a Christian minister.

He could not foresee whether the cruel laws, still existing on our statute book, should not hurl their vengeance against the first man that opened a place of worship avowedly in opposition to the doctrines which those laws were intended to guard and uphold. But he had counted the costs, and was, as we have seen from his own letters, prepared for any, and every event, however trying, however afflicting. He ever acted upon the principles which his last publication justifies and defends, that the dispensations of Heaven are always right, and that suffering and pain cannot be inflicted but for the wisest purposes; hence having seen his duty he could not diverge from its path. By this principle he was actuated to the latest period of life; being on his death-bed, and in great pain, which he mentioned with perfect meekness and patience, a friend standing by him observed, your favourite maxim, sir, "whatever is, is *right*," will no doubt support you. "No," said the dying saint, with an animation that lighted up his countenance, "whatever is, is BEST." This was the last sentence he was able distinctly to articulate, which proved that his faculties were still clear and vigorous, and his trust in God was unabated; and that what he had preached to others, through a long life, was able to support, to comfort, and to exhilarate the preacher himself, at the last trying moment of death, which happened November the 3d. 1808.

The remains of this excellent man were interred in Bunhill-fields, on Friday the 11th, according to his own express directions, in the most private manner possible. Had it been permitted, multitudes would gladly have shown him their last tribute of respect, by attending the funeral.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JOHN OPIE, A.R.

GREAT talents, it has been said, are generally accompanied by great eccentricities. The observation is often founded on truth. To attain to excellence, it is necessary to deviate from the beaten track; the mind once justified in the deviation to which it has been urged by its superior powers, begins to hold the multitude in contempt, and to imagine that as they have been wrong in one point they must be wrong in all, and thus is guided by a prejudice which, though directly contrary to that by which they are actuated, is equally unfounded in reason. The one is impelled by a habit, that long custom has made almost instinctive, to follow the same course in which his fore-fathers have gone: the other, once broken from these shackles, feeling averse to come again within the sphere of the attraction that regulates the movements of the great mass of mankind, uses all his efforts to increase his distance, until habit forces him to continue in the same path of deviation and to vary still more and more from the

popular direction. Thus though each moves in a different course, both are governed by the same law. The one is the motion of a body propelled by single force, and unaffected by any secondary impulse which causes a change in its direction. It is motion in a right line. The other is that of a body originally excited to action by the same cause as the former, but afterwards acted upon by another, which though it does not cause it to fly off immediately in an opposite direction, incessantly turns it more and more from the line of the first impulse. It is motion in a curve, always subject to the same law, yet always deviating from the original direction.

These eccentricities which at first were the mark for censure and the butt of ridicule, become when united to great talents the objects of admiration; and as the uncommon must always be the leading part of a character, we are apt to attach an idea of latent talent to apparent eccentricity, and hence to draw a conclusion the converse of the former, but altogether unfounded in reason or confirmed by experience, that great eccentricities are always accompanied by great talents. This delusive train of reasoning has led to fatal errors. It has induced many through a pervert ambition to aspire at an undeserved claim to superiority above their fellows, by braving the public opinion, and audaciously trampling upon all that society holds worthy of reverence and imitation. To counteract the pernicious tendency of such a system of opinion, more dangerous because it is never confined to theory, it may not be useless to show, not merely from abstract reasoning, but from fact and experience, that excellence in any mental endowment is so far from being incompatible with the general duties and observances of civil life, and the regular course of action necessary for the maintenance of good order in society, that a strict and steady adherence to the rules of conduct laid down by mankind in general, is the surest auxiliary that great abilities can have recourse to in order to attain the excellence to which they aspire. The following life of a painter who rose by his own assiduity and unremitting perseverance to the highest rank in his profession is a strong illustration of this; such an example is the more necessary, because unfortunately there are but too many of an opposite kind. We have too many melancholy instances of persons of shining abilities in that profession, whose lives have tended to confirm this dangerous sophism, and have thereby become pernicious examples to the rising class, and obscured their own characters with a stain, which all the splendour of their acknowledged endowments cannot efface.

John Opie was the son of a respectable master carpenter, who resided in the neighbourhood of Truro, in Cornwall. In his younger days he enjoyed no advantages of education, but what could be afforded by the neighbouring village school. Yet even here he was remarkable for a superiority of understanding, and strength of intellect, which soon raised him above his little competitors for rural fame. At ten years of age, it is said he could solve many difficult problems in Geometry, and two years after, we find him, so far relying on his own powers, as to act at the same time in the double capacity of pupil and teacher; in the morning receiving instructions from his former master, and in the evening imparting his own acquirements to a number of children in the village, many of whom were as much advanced beyond him in years, as they were behind in knowledge. For the latter of these occupations he was by no means unqualified, as in addition to his skill in geometry, he was a good Arithmetician, and was even then particularly remarkable for writing a variety of hands, with elegance and accuracy.

His father wished to bring him up to the trade, by which he himself had been supported. But this idea the young scholar could not brook. He displayed the most determined repugnance to it, even before he was conscious of those latent talents which afterwards shone out with so much splendour. The manner in which these were first discovered to himself is somewhat singular. As one of his companions was engaged in drawing

a butterfly, Opie was observed to remark him with fixed attention; on being asked what it was that had so deeply engaged his thoughts? he answered, "I am thinking that, if I was to try, I could draw a butterfly as well as Mark Oates." He made the experiment and succeeded, and on going home, related to his family with great marks of exultation the victory he had just gained.

Soon after, his father, who was employed in the repairs of a gentleman's house at Truro, took his son along with him. It happened that the picture of a farm-yard hung up in the parlour; it immediately caught his eye: and he took every opportunity of stealing away from his work to contemplate the beauties of this piece, which, though perhaps of no great value, was to him inimitable. His father, who was of the general opinion of the inutility of those arts, which do not contribute immediately to money-making, and probably thought that a turn for such occupations was only another name for idleness, corrected him; but all was in vain, he persisted in his visits to the parlour door, until the mistress of the house, noticing his curiosity, allowed him to go in and examine the picture at leisure. On returning home, he immediately began to sketch what he had seen; and by studying the picture every day, and committing the result every evening to paper, he at length, by dint of application and strength of memory, finished a tolerable copy.

In the same manner he copied several other pieces; but his father who persevered in his dislike to the growing taste of his son, had recourse to severity to check it; and it is probable that the constant exertion of parental authority would have prevailed over his perseverance, and forced him to relinquish this favourite propensity, had not his uncle, a man of sense, and a good mathematician, encouraged the boy to proceed, and to struggle against the difficulties which his father's prejudices and his own confined means opposed to his progress.

Supported by his uncle's approbation he now gave himself up entirely to his studies, particularly such as had any connexion with his favourite art. In this he made such progress that he had ornamented his father's house with family pictures, and had also drawn portraits for many of his young companions. Still however he might have continued in this humble sphere, had not accident raised him a friend who had sagacity to discern the latent bud of genius which was checked by the untoward circumstances of his situation. Dr. Walcott, better known by the name of Peter Pindar, happened then to reside at Truro. He was so struck with the abilities and industry of the young artist, that he took him under his protection, gave him many valuable hints, and supplied him with some good prints. The effects of his valuable friendship were soon perceptible: his fame spread through the country; he was now a professed portrait painter, and earned a respectable livelihood, by taking likenesses of the most respectable families in the several towns in that neighbourhood.

In one of these expeditions he went to Padstow, equipped in a short jacket, and carrying with him all the requisite apparatus of his profession. Here he was in such repute that he was detained from home so long as to excite much uneasiness in his family; but he soon satisfied them as to the cause of his absence, when on his return he appeared before his parents in a full suit of new clothes, and made his mother a present of twenty guineas, the fruits of his honourable industry. With a true independence of spirit he declared that he would be no longer burdensome to his parents, but was determined hereafter to depend solely on his own exertions for his support.

He remained sometime in the country encreasing rapidly in reputation and in skill; but at length was removed to a theatre better suited to the improvement and display of his abilities. He went to London still patronized by his first and most zealous friend Dr. Walcott, and with the resolution of raising himself if possible to the head of his profession. He was ambitious; but it was that honourable species of ambition which aspires to advancement solely by the superiority of inborn talents, and not by raising

a name on the ruins of a rival's reputation Wherever excellence appeared, he imitated and attempted to attain to it. On the same principle also he boldly laid claim to those honours which he felt himself entitled to. When Mr. Barry was deprived of the professorship of painting at the Royal Academy, he declared himself a candidate; but on being informed that Mr. Fuseli, whose learning and talents pre-eminently entitled him to the office, was a candidate, he declined the competition; at the same time however declaring, that the person proposed was the only one in who e favour he would willingly resign his pretensions, and afterwards, on that gentleman's removal to a more profitable situation, he again advanced his claim, and was elected.

This promotion did not slacken his efforts at improvement. He made use of it not as the end to which he aimed; but as an incitement to more strenuous exertions. He studied the art of painting scientifically, and not content with storing his own mind with the fruits of former writers on this subject, he imparted to others by several publications the result of his investigations which he had thus acquired. His zeal for his own improvement made him a reader, his wish to enlighten others induced him to become an author.

His first literary essay was the Life of Sir Joshua Reynolds published in Walcott's edition of Pilkington's Painter's Dictionary. In this, besides the skill and knowledge of his art which might be expected from the attention that he had bestowed on it, he displayed a fluency and force of expression scarcely to be expected from a youth so little acquainted with the practice of composition.

Shortly afterwards he published a letter on the establishment of a National Gallery, to which, with the openness of character which was one of his leading characteristics he annexed his name.

The next step of his advancement in the literary world, was his appointment to deliver lectures in the Royal Institution. Whatever may have been the intrinsic merit of these, they do not appear to have contributed much to the main object of his wishes, the increase of his reputation. Certain it is, they did not please himself, and he soon resigned his situation; but it was only to be raised to another, more suitable to his talents, and more congenial to his inclinations; the professorship of painting at the Royal Academy, which has been already mentioned. Here he delivered a course of lectures that were received with universal approbation.

His want of success in the former attempt may have contributed to this: conscious of his defects in the first instance, he laboured to correct them in the second; and he succeeded. In his former lectures he was abrupt, confused, and immethodical; rather hurrying into the subject than leading his hearers to it. In the latter he was more regular, distinct, and energetic. He shone more as professor at the Academy, than as lecturer in the Institution; because he was better fitted by nature and application to address the studious and philosophic, than the light and gay. He possessed no superficial graces: Every thing in him was manly, bold, commanding, yielding little to fashion, nothing to caprice; addressing the judgment, not captivating the fancy; ill adapted to fix the careless wanderings of the imagination, but fitted to awaken thought, and gratify reflection.

Yet, notwithstanding the many claims which this painter had on the public, it must not be concealed that he did not at once rise to that height which his abilities deserved, and his own aspiring mind aimed at. When the curiosity excited in London by the first appearance of the boy from the tin-mines of Cornwall, had subsided, he experienced that kind of neglect which is not unfrequently the consequence of high-raised expectations in the unthinking multitude. This neglect had a severe effect on him, it deprived him of employment, and what, perhaps, he felt still more strongly, by sinking him below the level which he might justly deem his right, it lessened the hope of attaining that elevation in his profession, which was the darling object of his emulation, the polar star of his exertions.

But though his exertions were check-

ed, they were not prevented: the same spirit and perseverance which had forced him at first into notice, supported him through a trial under which many possessed of less native vigour of mind would have sunk. His Endowments gradually, though slowly, again raised him into notice; the conscious sense of acknowledged merit animated his efforts; he roused himself to more powerful exertions; he increased his renown; he prepared to seize on the crown due to his virtuous emulation, when death wrested the laurel from his brows, to place it as a lasting record of his merits on his tomb. He died on the 9th of April 1807. and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, near the tomb of Sir Joshua Reynolds. His race was short; but glorious to himself, and honourable to his country.

DETACHED ANECDOTES, &c.

ANCIENT AND MODERN ERRORS.

IF Virgilius say that the earth is not flat, but that there are inhabitants opposite to us, "Anathema esto, Let him be accursed," was the ignorant and dogmatical assertion of a Bishop of Rome some centuries ago.

Tim and Terence two brothers, lived on the road between Belfast and Lisburn, whose prospects to the north were bounded by the range of mountains in that direction. Tim had on some occasion gone to the top of one of these mountains and discovered that there was land on the other side. Full of his discovery he communicated it to Terence, who positively asserted he was in error; "for there," pointing to the mountain, "is the root of the sky." Much altercation ensued: Tim persisted; and the enraged Terence beat his brother for asserting what appeared to him incredible. Thus ignorance is always obstinate, and intolerant.

The above fact took place about twenty years ago.

The ancient Greeks confined their knowledge of the extent of the world to the confines of the Mediterranean sea, and supposed the pillars of Hercules, the modern Gibraltar, and the opposite African Promontory to form the boundaries of the earth, or according to Irish phraseology "the root of the sky." K.

JEWISH MOURNING.

The rending of the garments among the Jews, was as essential an expression of grief on the death of a relation as wearing black is with us. Levi, in his Rites and Ceremonies of the Jews, says that it was performed in the following manner; "They take a knife, and holding the blade downwards, give the upper garment a cut on the right side, and then rend it a hand's breadth. This is done for the five following relations, *brother*, *sister*, *son*, *daughter*, or *wife*; but for *father* or *mother*, the rent is on the left side, and in all the garments, as coat, waistcoat, &c.

SPANISH OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

The following is the form in which the grandees of Arragon tendered their allegiance to the new king on his coronation—"We who are as good as you, take you as our king, on condition that you guard and preserve our liberties and privileges; if not, we renounce you."

HOUSE OF STUART.

The Welsh chronicles trace the origin of the Stuart family to the following circumstance in the reign of Macbeth of Scotland. Fleance, a near relation to the good king Duncan, and said, by Shakespeare, to be the son of Banquo who had been assassinated by the Usurper, fled to Wales, where he was kindly received by Griffith prince of that country. He repaid the Welsh prince's hospitality by intriguing with his beautiful daughter, the princess Nest. The prince displeased at the lady's conduct (*especially as it was with a stranger*, says the chronicler) slays her lover, and exiles the child, who afterwards residing in Scotland, under the protection of Edgar Atheling; rises to the office of *Lord Steward*, and adopts that name for himself and his family.

SINGULAR CUSTOM.

A singular matrimonial custom prevailed of old, in many parts of Europe. Men of rank, who had lost

their wives, but had children, to avoid burdening their estates, might marry low born women; who, bringing no fortune, were entitled to no dower. These contracts are said to be still prevalent in Germany, where they are stiled *left-handed marriages*, it being a part of the ceremony for the Bridegroom to give his left hand to the Bride. The children of such marriages are not capable of inheriting, and bear neither the title nor arms of the Father.

ANECDOTE OF DR. FOTHERGILL.

A friend of this physician was settled near London, in a curacy of fifty pounds per Annum, with a wife and a numerous family. An epidemical disease at that time prevalent, seized on his wife and five of his children; in this scene of distress he looked up to the Doctor for his assistance, but durst not apply to him from a consciousness of his inability to reward him for his attendance. A friend who knew his situation, kindly offered to accompany him to the Doctor's, and give him his fee; they took the advantage of his hour of audience, and after a description of the several cases, the fee was offered and rejected, but a note was taken of his place of residence. The Doctor called assiduously the next and every succeeding day, till his attendance was no longer necessary. The curate, anxious to return some grateful mark of the sense he entertained of his services, strained every nerve to accomplish it, but how great was his astonishment, when instead of receiving the money he offered, with apologies for his situation, the Doctor put ten guineas into his hand, desiring him to apply to him without diffidence in any future difficulties!

CURIOUS DIALOGUE.

It is related by Mathew Paris, that when Gilbert Foliot, bishop of London, was one night ruminating on subjects, rather of a political than religious tendency, he was thus unexpectedly accosted by the devil.

O Gilberte Foliot
Dum revolvis tot et tot,
Deus tuus est Ashtarot.
While thus you're revolving on good and on evil,
This world is your heaven, your God is the Devil.

To which the intrepid priest answered with more truth than civility.

Mentiris Dæmon: qui est Deus
Sabbaoth, est ille meus.
Satan, thou liest; the God who evermore
Both was and is, 'tis him whom I adore.

EXTRACT FROM THE HAVEN OF HEALTH, BY THOMAS COGAN M. A. AND B. M. LONDON 1612.

Of Dinner.

When four hours be past after breakfast, a man may safely take his dinner, and the most convenient time for dinner, is about eleven of the clocke before noone. Yet Diogenes the philosopher, when he was asked the question, what time was best for a man to dine, he answered, for a rich man when he will, but for a poore man when he may. But the usual time for dinner in the Universities, is eleven, and elsewhere about noone. At Oxford in my time, they used commonly at dinner, boyled biefe with pottage, bread, and beere, and no more; the quantity of biefe was in value an halfepenny for one man, and sometimes if hunger constrained, they would double their commons.

Of Supper.

About four houres, or sixe after we have dined, the time is convenient for supper, which in the Universities is about five of the clocke, in the afternoone. But in the country abroad, they use to sup at sixe, and in poor men's houses, when leisure will serve.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNT, IN THE CHEST OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, SANDWICH.

38. *Henry VIII. about* 1546.

To the Shepard for a bargyn penny. ijd. To W. E. for ernest to rypp whete. jd. After diverse charges for beer, meat, spices &c. on 12th day. Item, paid at the Pellican on the twelfth even, when the wether was caried to my lord of Myssrules.—xvjd. Item, for a new Judas for the pascall iiijd. Received for j skyn of a wether kylled for my Lord of Myssrules xvd. Item, for Jesus key per ann. vj. A. D. 1580, Received of Mr. Robinsonne for a lambe he killed with his bowe. ijs. vjd.

From a roll of uncertain date.

Item, for a quarter for Judas light ijd. ob. 1596, Among the Expenses of entertaining the Mayor with a dinner upon St. Bartholomew's day is, For turnynge the Spytte iiijd.

THE TUDORS.

The following epistles are a strong proof of similarity of taste and spirit, in Henry the eighth, and his daughter, the good queen Bess; the former wrote the letter subjoined to ——— bishop of Durham, demanding to be put in possession of certain lands, and tenements, attached to the bishopric, a request which the prelate declared his inability to comply with, alleging that the consent of the dean and chapter should be previously obtained.

The letter written by Elizabeth, was addressed to Heaton, bishop of Ely, who after having agreed to an exchange of some lands, which she wished to have speedily executed, seemed unwilling to comply.

Henry's letter.

Thou proud and haughty prelate,

Surrender unto me forthwith my lands, or by the body and blood of C——t, I will blow these, thy dean and chapter, off the face of the earth,

I am thy *loving friend* Henry.

With *hereditary delicacy*, Elizabeth addressed Heaton in the following terms. Proud Prelate,

I understand you are backward in complying with your agreement, but I would have you know, that i who have made you what you are, can unmake you, and if you dont forthwith fulfil your agreement, by the living——, I will immediately unfrock you. Yours, as you demean yourself, Elizabeth.

HERALDRY.

During the infancy of printing, this subject was remarkably popular, so much so that treatises on heraldry were amongst the foremost which issued from the press: of those, that written by Juliana Bernes, prioress of Sopewell nunnery, near St. Alban's, begins in the following singular manner.

"Of the offspring of the *gentilman* Shem, came Habraham, Moyses, Aron, and the *proffettys*, and also the kyngs of the right *lyne* of Mary, of whom that *gentilman Jhesus* was *borne*, very God and very man, after his *manhode*, king of the land of Juda, &c. &c. Jesus, *gentilman* by his *modre* Mary, prince of *Cote Armure*, &c. &c.

THE HARP OF BRYAN BOIROMH

Was carried off together with the crown and other regalia to Rome, and presented to the Pope, as his liege Lord, by Donagh, after the murder of his brother Teig (eldest son of Bryan) and his deposition by his nephew, anno 1023, a circumstance to which Adrian the fourth appealed to authorize his transfer of this island to Henry II. The harp, crown, and regalia remained in the vatican till the reign of Henry the eighth, when the pope, (reserving the *golden crown*, and the regalia to himself) sent the *stringed instrument* to that King, with the title of Defender of the Faith*; it was presented by Henry to de Burgh, first earl of Clanricard, from whose family it went into that of the M'Mahons of Clenagh, county of Clare, in company with a female de Burgh, and at her demise, it fell into the possession of commissioner M'Namara, of Limerick. In the year 1782, it was presented to the University of Dublin, (where it now remains,) by the Right honourable W. Conyngham.

* Might not this have given rise to the introduction of the *harp* on the Irish coinage. I have not noticed it on the coins of any reign anterior to Henry the eighth. Whether it was introduced during his reign I cannot ascertain, but it may be reasonably conjectured that he who accepted the title of *Defender of the Faith*, would also endeavour to perpetuate in this country the present which accompanied it. I have noticed the harp on a silver coin of James the first.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

SONG.

LET ithers sing o' Meg and Jean,
But what are a' their lilts to me,
I hae a lassie flings them a',
My charming Emma Roseberry.

Her coral lips sae sweetly show
Her weel ranged teeth of pearly hue,
Like rose-buds moistened wi' a shower,
Or double cherry wat wi' dew.

Her een sae bright, her form sae light,
She aften gies my heart a prance;
When zephyr-like, she bounds along
To meet me in the merry dance.
I'll shortly mak her a' my ain,
And then what is the warl to me,
For peace and love shall crown my hame,
Where I've my Emma Roseberry.

If fortune smiles, we'll use her gifts,
Wi' caution, and sobriety,
And should we hae a bit to spare,
There's mair around to share it wi'.
But if our chance be nae sae guid,
While providence shall grant us health,
Industry aye will bring us food,
Contentment is the best o' wealth.

Thus hand in hand we'll pass along,
This life's uncertain chequered show,
'Till He whose fiat brought us here,
Shall call us where we're all to go.
And may the same all gracious pow'r,
Still guide us by his counsels wise,
Then death shall only seem a friend,
To lead to bliss beyond the skies.

Belfast, 1802.

SONG.

Tune—"Roy's wife of Aldivalloch."

DAYS and years of bliss delighting,
Each to some new joy inviting,
Quickly how ye're fled from me;
Sorrow all my pleasures blighting.
My Emma was the fairest form,
That ever graced a mortal's dwelling,
Her modest worth, and peerless charms,
Were far above my humble telling.
Days and years, &c.

Contentment ever smiled upon us,
Peace and love were never from us,
Of worldly wealth we were but scant,
And even of that Hope gave a promise.
But now the sad reverse to me,
While memory stern affliction rallies,
For death has cropt the sweetest flow'r,
That ever bloomed in Erin's vallies.
Days and years &c.

After labour, how refreshing,
Our frugal meal of simplest dressing,
Delicious it was still to me;
When sweetened by my love's caressing.
Now dark and dreary is each scene,
Though bleak December's wet and stormy,
No cheerful fire, no frugal meal,
Nor kiss of welcome is there for me.
Days and years, &c.

Should you wander near a willow,
Where Lagan westward heaves its billow,
Pause, and drop a feeling tear,
For Emma there has made her pillow.
And when this frame the stroke receives,
Which soon or late must sure betide us;
Then gently lay me down to rest,
That death itself may not divide us.

Belfast, 1805. Days and years, &c.

ANSWER TO MRS. GREVILLE'S PRAYER FOR INDIFFERENCE.

BY A LADY.

WHILST tuneful Greville sweetly sings,
The joys that cold indifference brings,
A nobler theme I chuse,
As tender feelings shall inspire,
I tune my long neglected lyre,
And court once more the muse.

I seek not fame, I ask not praise,
Nor envy all the vernal bays,
That bloom round Greville's head;
The laurel may her brows entwine,
While, suited to my muse, o'er mine,
Be humbler myrtle spread.

Sweet type of constancy and love,
Its emblematic charm shall prove,
The hope I'll ne'er resign;
In friendship warm, in love sincere,
To me affection's bonds are dear,
And may those joys be mine!

And pardon, Greville, though I dare,
While I admire, reprove the prayer,
That's breath'd in vain by thee;
Say shall a heart so formed to know
The transports that from feeling flow,
E'er wish for apathy?

You seek no kind return in love,
Its hopes and fears you would not prove,
And scorn a lover's name;
You seek no tempting charm to please,
But sigh for that insipid ease,
Which every brute may claim.

Oh! Greville, can that heart of thine,
That breathes, that glows in every line,
The sacred touch disown,
Which bids the tear to pity flow,
Which melts in grief at other's woe,
Or makes their joys its own.

Shall she who "as the needle true,"
That's made to *turn* and *tremble* too,
A gift so rare despise;
Shall she, intended but to please,
Whose smile can sorrow's bondage ease,
Shall she, Indifference prize.

Distress the mind may often wound,
While bliss can scarce o'erpass the bound
'Twixt joy and agony;
But who this boundary to attain,
Would not o'erlook whole years of pain,
Can never feel like me.

Should I a lover's fondness claim,
I hope to feel an equal flame,
I'll seek each charm to please;
Be blest by blessing what I love,
And every selfish thought reprove,
That tends to churlish ease.

Drive calm indifference far from me;
'Tis tender sensibility
Alone true pleasure yields;
My days I would not have serene,

So hope but paint the varied scene,
Which expectation gilds:
Regret may oft extract a sigh,
And disappointment cloud the sky,
And blast my promis'd joys;
But hope again may warm my breast,
And others' bliss may make me blest,
When care my own destroys.

TO A YOUNG LADY ON BEING TOO MUCH FLATTERED.

HE says an angel's grace is thine,
Heaven's in thy eye of blue,
He calls thy face thy form divine,
But dost thou think it true?

Ah no! nor God, nor nature gave
To earth an angel's grace,
And all of heaven thou here canst't have,
He wishes to debase.

He says thy locks are waving gold,
Thy bosom mocks the snow,
The same to hundreds he has told,
And sworn that it was so.

Ah! trust him not, even though thou'rt fair,
Yet why of that be vain?
Be virtue, rather all thy care,
For short is beauty's reign. L.

ON THE REVIVAL OF THE IRISH MINSTRELSY.

OH! Minstrels, who on Erin's shore,
Prepare to strike the Harp once more,
And soon will pour your simple lays
As did the Bards of other days!
Oh! will you not the deeds rehearse
Which well deserve to live in verse?
'Twas this the youthful heart inspir'd
That once with glory high was fir'd.
This, that many an hero led,
To rest on honour's gory bed.
'Twas this that taught him how to die,
Nor look to life, with mournful sigh—
For well he knew the Minstrel's song,
The days of heroes can prolong!
Ah! when to Erin's verdant shore
Some wand'rer shall return once more,
Whose heart, perhaps, by care opprest,
Had vainly sought afar for rest,
When her green fields his eyes shall meet,
His heart again with joy may beat.—
For oh! the dearest spot, on earth,
The place appears, that gave us birth,
Perhaps in vain he'd seek to tell,
The feelings that his bosom swell,
His voice could not the task essay,
His trembling voice would die away,
And when your plaintive strain he hears,
He'll turn aside to hide his tears;
But vain to chace them from his eyes,
For swiftly as they flow, they rise,
Oh! Erin's strains what power to melt,
Oh! strains that soon as heard are felt,
Whate'er the beating bosom feels,
Thy plaintive language best reveals,
That, oft in heartfelt murmurs dies,
Or swells the note in lengthen'd sighs;
It speaks the heart by wrongs opprest,
Wrongs such as words had ne'er exprest;
When, youthful bards, the chord you sweep,
Then the patriot oft will weep,
Perhaps on some tall cliff reclined,
Your lays will reach him on the wind,
'Twill seem to tell of days long past,
'Twill tell of scenes by clouds o'ercast;
He'll think it is some Minstrel's shade,
That loves to wander o'er the glade,
To touch the harp to him so dear,
The harp that Erin loves to hear;
Then in the transport of his soul,
While down his cheek the big drops roll,
For all the Minstrel race he'll pray,
And all who love to hear their lay.

SELECTED POETRY.

The following verses, addressed to a young Lady, are from the pen of Mr. Robinson, Portrait Painter, formerly of this Town, but now of Dublin. Though they appeared some time ago in a periodical print, we present them to our readers as a specimen of spirited composition, on a subject Mr. Robinson so well illustrates by his pencil.

SWEET, as when April flings her showers,
O'er spicy shrubs, or opening flowers;
Whose balmy breath, by zephyrs borne,
Gives fragrance to the dewy morn,
Was Science—whenher pencil bland
First shed its influence o'er the land!
From Love's soft power fair Painting rose,*
So genial warmth the flowret blows:
While lull'd in sleep, the Greek reclin'd,
The fair Corinthian virgin kind,
As young desire her fancy strung,
O'er her lov'd youth enraptur'd hung!
When Cynthia as her radiance stray'd
On the smooth wall his face pourtray'd,
And love with ready pencil drew
The pleasing portrait into view!
Hence what new scenes of Science rise?
See daring genius wing the skies;
Hence Raphael's hand with skill divine,†
Marks out creation with a line,
And Poussin's pencil, watery, pours
Its deluge o'er the sounding shores, ‡
In soft etherial temper rise,
See Claude's mild magic clear the skies,

* The origin of Painting, as related by Pliny.
† Raphael's Picture of the Creation.
‡ Poussin's Picture of the Deluge.

And Titian's golden blossoms bloom,
And woods and forests re-illume.
Deep in the desert's tangled shade,
Sublime in all his tints arrayed,
See Rubens' wilder fancy roam ;*
His dogs fly fleet—his coursers foam,
Till on their game the hunters spring,
And mimic forests seem to ring!
As spent with rage the wild boar dies,
And great in death the savage lies!
High 'mid his Alps, see Rosa lean,†
Grand as his wild sequester'd scene;
Where cliffs depend, and vapours lower,
See fierce banditti round him pour;
No mercy in their, vengeful eyes—
Aghast the shrinking traveller flies!
Thine too Salvator is the meed,
The Muses yeild their vot'rys dead.
Rosa sublime his Alps among,
Melodious breathing sigh'd in song,
Though 'twas his fate neglect to find,
Unfailing wreaths his temples bind.
Dipt in the rose's damask hue,
See Romney's pencil warm imbue, ‡

With vermil tint, each speaking face,
Each sorrowing look, each smiling grace;
As wild the varying passions roll,
Their influence o'er a Shakespeare's soul!
Till in her robe, by fancy spun,
Maternal Nature wraps her son,
While the meek Graces blushing stand,
From softer Kauffman's tender hand.
And you dear maid, whose mind unfolds,
The earliest gems that Science moulds;
She bids thee share the boundless stores,
That Culture on young Genius pours.—
Bids—while thy purest pencil strays,
By Judgment led, through Fancy's maze,
Steal from the Spring her tenderest bloom;
Or sip in Summer's rich perfume;
Or to the mellow Autumn fly,
And cull a wreath of various die;
Till Art mature with rip'ning hands,
Each bud evolves, each stem expands;
Till thy chaste Landscapes call to view
Salvator's strength, and Lorraine's hue:
And Taste, that marks her vot'ry's flame,
Shall bless thee with unfading fame!

* Ruben's Hunting pieces.
‖ Salvator Rosa, famous for Alpine scenery, with Banditti.
† Romney's picture of the birth of Shakespeare, attended by Nature and the Passions.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Fasciculus the Second of the Belfast Literary Society, on the Linen and Hempen Manufactures in the Province of Ulster; by S. M. Stephenson, M.D. M.B.L.S. 4to. p.p. 88, *Smyth & Lyons, Belfast,* 1808.

"A GREATER eulogy," says Hume, "cannot be given to any man, than to display his usefulness to the public." We have seldom, indeed, met with a work, in which there is more solid practical sense, than in the one before us; and if the Belfast Literary Society publish many such papers, they will do credit to themselves, and be of much utility to the public. Since the pamphlet written by Mr. Louis Crommelin, "overseer of the royal Linen manufactory of Ireland," entitled, "An Essay towards the Improving of the Hempen and Flaxen manufacture of that country;" printed in 1705, little has for many years been produced on that most important subject. The late Mr. Williamson of Lambeg, formed the design of correcting the various abuses which prevailed in the linen trade, and about the year 1762, conceived the plan of reducing to practice the theory, and of realising the hopes of Sir William Temple, and Dean Swift, by framing a system of wholesome laws, which would reform the evils, that had nearly been fatal to the staple trade of Ireland. Preparatory to this, he published eight tracts on the subject, and by an enthusiastic and unwearied assiduity, opposed sometimes by the prejudices and dishonesty of the lower classes, as well as by illiberal jealousy in some of the higher, accomplished his most useful object, of a ten years pursuit, in the digest of laws, which, with some variations, and these not important, continue to regulate the linen manufacture to this day.

The treatise under our consideration, in the words of its author, "in a History of the Linen Manufacture, relates the different operations, which he knows have been, and are performed in the province

of Ulster, upon the *Linum usitatissimum Linn.*" It is executed in a manner, so judicious and contains so much minute and valuable matter, that none but a practitioner can sufficiently appreciate its merits, and he must be a proficient indeed, who does not derive information from it. Though the work of Doctor Stephenson is compressed into eighty pages quarto, yet does it contain document sufficient for a considerable volume. A treatise more showy might have been written; it could have been ornamented with adventitious materials; but this is composed with skill, and expressed with simplicity. The man of science, as well as the perspicacious observer, is seen in it throughout. In such compositions, the author has justly decided, that costly enrichments would be unsuitable, and to him could not be applied, the sarcastic compliment of Appelles, who, on seeing the picture of a Venus, magnificently attired, said to the operator, "Friend, thou hast not been able to make her fair, thou hast certainly made her fine."

The Doctor has commenced his work with the ancient history of the linen manufacture. On this subject he has been concise; as it is matter of curiosity, rather than utility, from whence, or at what period, the *linum* or flax was first imported into Ireland. Of the numerous species of this plant (Miller has particularized eighteen) three only afford the fibrous texture for spinning. The first is that invaluable annual, the seed of which is imported in such quantities from the north of Europe, and from America; the rich substitute for the fleece, the manufacture of which, this country was deprived of by a British House of Commons. The two perennial plants, those from Siberia and Istria, have been tried for the raw material of Linen, but with little success. The author dwells a short time on the period of the introduction of linen, and he soon passes from Phenicia through Greece into Carthage and Spain, from whence he introduces the linen manufacture into Ireland, where, if it has not been the earliest, it has probably been the most extensive and successful in the world. Among the ancient wearers of linen, the Doctor has not looked under the tunic of the Roman Emperor, Alexander Severus, to determine the important point, whether his Imperial Majesty was the first who wore a clean shirt. He recurs immediately to more important matter; the establishment of the manufacture in this country; the culture and management of flax; the spinning of yarn and weaving of linen; the laws for the regulation of the trade, and lastly the bleaching. In these several particulars, he evinces the knowledge of an agriculturist, a tradesman, a mechanic, and a chemist.

It is but doing injustice to the work to give partial quotations, where there is so much connected document, and so little verbiage. We shall now, however, present our readers with a short extract from the commencement of the Treatise, reserving our further notices for a future number.

Speaking of the records of our Historians, as to the early introduction of the spindle and the loom from Carthage and Spain, he says, "If it be objected to this, that there is no single word in the Irish language that signifies a loom, it may be replied, that the same may be said of all the western languages. Thus, in English, loom originally signified any machine, but was afterwards appropriated to the weaver's frame. In like manner, a loom in Irish, is *Beart-fhighaidh*, the weaver's frame or engine.

"Dr. Johnson has not the substantive sley. The verb, according to him, signifies, to part, or twist into threads. For further explanation he refers us to sleave, a word, of which, he candidly confesses that he knows not well the meaning. The sley is the reed, the comb or pecten; and the sleys or sley-boards, the frame in which it is fixed; and the original of this word Dr. Johnson might have learned in the Western Isles, where *sleighe*, signifies a way, and when applied to a loom, the way through which the yarn must pass before weaving. A sliver of wool is a skein or lock, which has passed through the sley.

"The shuttle is often confounded with the sley, although both their derivation and office are widely different. Scut is a boat, and nothing can resemble a boat, cut out of a

single tree, more than the ancient shuttle of this kingdom. Those who admit, that these words are derived from the Phenician, will consider them as presumptive evidence, that the Irish were acquainted with these implements from the most remote antiquity.

"The Act of Henry VIII. against grey merchants forestalling, proves that Linen Yarn was a very considerable article of commerce, at that time, in Ireland. In the reign of Elizabeth, this Act was revived, with an additional clause, prohibiting the watering of Flax and Hemp in rivers. In another act, passed in the thirteenth year of the same reign, against the exportation of wool, flax, and linen and woollen yarn, it is recited that the merchants of Ireland had been exporters of these articles for upwards of one hundred years before that period. In 1599, Fynes Morrison, Secretary to Lord Mountjoy, observes that Ireland yields much flax, which the inhabitants work into yarn, and export in great quantity. There is still extant an act of Parliament, restricting the higher orders from wearing an extravagant quantity of linen in their shirts. In the reign of Charles I. Lord Strafford adopted the most effectual measures for the encouragement of the Linen Manufacture, and in 1673, Sir William Temple asserts, that if the spinning of flax were encouraged, we should soon beat both the French and Dutch out of the English market. In that year, England imported from France linen, to the amount of £507,250 4 0, including 2820 pair of old sheets.

In 1678 the absurdity of this traffic became so evident, that it was prohibited. But in 1685, James II. was so much in the French interest, that he obtained a repeal of the prohibitory act. At the revolution, however, the importation of French linen was declared a common nuisance in the parliaments of the three kingdoms, and finally suppressed. In 1698, the woollen manufacture had taken such deep root in Ireland, as to excite English jealousy to such a degree, that both Houses of Parliament addressed King William on the subject, beseeching him to take effectual measures to discourage the Woollen Manufacture in Ireland, and promising, in this case, every encouragement to the Manufacture of Linen. This stipulation was announced to the Irish Parliament by the Lords Justices in their speech from the throne. The two Houses readily acquiesced, and this transaction has ever since been considered by the Irish as a solemn compact between the two nations.

"In consequence of an Act of the ninth of Anne, a Board of Trustees of the Linen and Hempen manufactures was established; and on the sixth of October, 1711, the Duke of Ormond nominated an equal number of Trustees for each province.

"This is justly considered as an event of great importance in the history of the Linen trade; but was preceded by one, perhaps, of equal consequence, the emigration of the Hugonots, from France, on account of the revocation of the edict of Nantz, in 1685. Many of these refugees who had carried on the linen manufacture in France, were attracted to these kingdoms by their attachment to King William, and encouraged to settle in Ireland by the measures that had been taken in favour of the Linen trade. Among these was Mr. Lewis Cromelin, who obtained a patent for carrying on and improving the Linen Manufacture, accompanied with a grant of £800 per annum, as Interest of £10,000 to be advanced by him, or by his procurement, as a stock for carrying on the same; £200 per annum for his pains and care in carrying on the said work; £120 per annum for three assistants, and £60 per annum for the support of a French Minister. This patent was renewed by Queen Anne; but, in 1716, on the appointment of itinerants in each province, the three assistants were struck off. In consequence of this patent, Mr. Cromelin settled in Lisburn, in this County. He was a native of St. Quintin, where his ancestors had carried on the manufacture of Linen with great success, for many generations. In 1705 he published a book, in which he successfully combatted the prejudices that prevailed against the culture of Flax, and the manufacture of Linen. It consisted of six Chapters, on the following subjects: 1. Preparing ground,

sowing, weeding, pulling, watering and grassing Flax. 2. Dressing Flax. 3. Hemp. 4. Spinning and spinning wheels. 5. Preparing yarn and looms. 6. Bleaching utensils and bleaching.

"Cloth, resembling Linen has been made from the filaments of trees, found in the Island of Madagascar, and in the islands of the South-seas. In Sweden, hop stalks were put into water in Autumn, and taken out in March: the filaments were then dressed like Flax, and made in the common manner, into fine strong cloth. The filaments of nettles have been dressed in the same manner as flax, and made into cloth of a fine texture."

We are precluded by want of room, from making any other than introductory observations on the work of Doctor Stephenson; we shall, however, as we have already said, resume the subject in a future number. Should we happen to differ with the author in any particular points, we shall not scruple to express our dissent, confident that in his candour and regard for utility, he will prefer the further elucidation of the subject, to any coincidence of opinion, not founded in experience and truth. We thus early announce, in this imperfect manner, the work of Doctor S. that as far as we can contribute to the measure, its circulation may be promoted, and that a spirit of inquiry, guided by science, may be generally excited, concerning a manufacture, on which the vital interest of Ireland so much depends. Its growing magnitude may be best appreciated by recollecting, that the annual amount of its value has been encreased, since the year in which Mr. Cromelin wrote his pamphlet, upwards of three millions sterling, and that it nearly equals in value, according to the estimate of Mr. Foster, the amount of all the manufactures of Great Britain exported to all the rest of Europe, Ireland excepted, at a period when the ports of Europe were open to her. The production of the raw material of this manufacture, is combined too with agricultural advantages. It is not confined to the walls of a factory; but diffuses itself through the channels of rural and domestic occupation; employing, in the different sexes and ages, that time, which would otherwise be spent in idleness and vice, correcting and supplying the deficiencies of a soil, not the most favourable to culture, and giving a new face to a province, about a century back, the precarious field of adventure for Scotch colonists, and French refugees. We cannot close these remarks, without reminding, before it is too late, those who may prevent the introduction of Flax-seed, for another year, of the magnitude of the experiment they are about to try, and the great injury that may result from it. "*Such rash Counsellors,*" in the memorable words of Mr. Foster, one of the most eminent friends of the great staple of Ireland, "*should learn to dread the consequences of changing the course of manufactures, by forced measures, and that millions of people will not remain idle!*" R.

The Reviewer Reviewed; or, Observations on a Review of Dr. Richardson's Memoir, on the Irish Fiorin Grass, as it was published in the Transactions of the Belfast Literary Society. p.p. 24. 8vo. Belfast, Smyth & Lyons, 1808.

A MANUSCRIPT which has met with nothing but approbation from the friendly circle, no sooner changes its form, and issues from the printer's press to public view, than the author often feels his sanguine hopes disappointed at the cool reception which is given to this darling, which he flattered himself had every perfection; even the most gentle criticism offends, and what is mere justice, is ascribed to prejudice or ill nature.

Let the author, however, place himself in the situation of a Reviewer; let him consider himself at all times responsible to the public, the director of their opinion for and against the productions of the press, and he will certainly make some allowance, and at least admit that the post which the Reviewer occupies, requires a never-ceasing attention, to hold himself free, even from the bonds of friendship. We conceive that true Reviewers should be, in the strictest sense, citizens of the world; totally uninfluenced by sect or party, quick-sighted as the lynx, to see the beauties and defects of the work before

them, courageous as the lion in giving their opinion, and gentle as the lamb when necessitated to give judgment against the author. Under these considerations and with these objects in view, the public may expect, to receive an impartial view of every work which comes before us. When we err, we hope some allowance will be made; for human nature is liable to err. And when the author finds that our opinion does not agree with his own, we sincerely wish, that like the gentle reproof of a father, anxious for the welfare of his son, it may be the means of rousing him to exert his faculties in order to overcome the obstacles which impeded his course towards fame.

The present publication appears in such a fictitious garb, that we were at first doubtful whether to notice it; the hasty, and irritable state in which we suspect it was written, lays it open to a severity of criticism, which it is our wish never to employ. It would be very repugnant to our feelings to shoot the arrows of malevolence against any man, especially at one whose good intentions we have every reason to respect. Taxing us, however, with wilful misrepresentation, it is necessary that we should be more than usually explicit. If our author had carefully read all that we presented to the public in our former review, he would not, we think, have been so much offended as he appears to be.

At page 4, he says, that the Reviewer complains "that the slow pace of agricultural improvement has often been disturbed by theorists." This every practical agriculturist is ready to acknowledge. "Are we then, because some agricultural discoveries have been found not to answer expectation, at one stroke of the pen to condemn all?" By no means, but we think it is necessary for the farmer to proceed with caution, and not to be led by arguments, however plausible, to enter at once into a new mode of cultivation, or to discard some of his old and valuable plants, for others that appear with high-sounding titles. "The Reviewer compares christmas haymaking, to preserving salmon in ice, but he forgets that extraordinary process has completely succeeded." It is long since we knew that the savages of North America, the Greenlanders, and inhabitants of the Russian Empire, preserved their fish and flesh through the winter in this manner, and also that the late Mr. Demidow, of Moscow "preserved in an ice cellar, apple and pear trees, that were sent to him from France during winter, and kept them in that place till the Spring of the following year. Though vegetation was thus suspended during nineteen months (i. e. thirteen months longer than would have been the case had the trees not changed their place) yet they vegetated and produced flowers, together with some fruit."* But Dr. Richardson, we believe is the first, who, disregarding the vulgar course of making hay while the sun shines, "amidst deluges of rain, heavy snows, and damp fogs," houses his, in order to preserve the vegetable vitality, which others endeavour so much to destroy. Whether the Dr. is right or not, we cannot having only enjoyed the pleasure of haymaking in summer, pretend to assert; we should however imagine from his own experiments already quoted† that the vegetation in his hay lofts, must have this advantage, of encreasing the quantity, an advantage he has forgot to mention. "Let us try what it is the King of Denmark is to laugh at." It is at Dr. Richardson's readily believing that the cattle of Iceland had nothing to eat but the paltry equisetum." We have been told of the scarcity of food which prevailed there at particular times; but when all other vegetables had been totally destroyed, does the Dr. think his favourite would have resisted the inclement season? No doubt but a better system of agriculture might be introduced into Iceland; but serious obstacles retard its progress, and we fear that the severity of the climate will long damp the ardour of experimental farmers. The meadows of Iceland, like the meadows of Ireland, are covered with a variety of grasses; but when a severe season prevails, all vegetation ceases, even the equisetum is destroyed, and the cattle resort to the sea

* Annals of Botany, Vol. I. 190.

† Memoir, page 14, and reviewer reviewed, page 11.

shore, to preserve a miserable existence, by feeding on marine plants. The present king of Denmark, we have reason to believe, is a man of too much sense to laugh at either the systematic arranger of the productions of nature, or the man who tells him the use of them.

Countless is vegetation's verdant brood,
As are the stars that stud yon cope of heaven:
To marshal all her tribes, in order'd file,
Generic, or specific, might demand
His science, wond'rous Swede! whose ample mind,
Like ancient Tadmor's philosophic king,
Stretch'd from the hyssop creeping on the wall,
To Lebanon's proudest cedars. MASON.

Dr. Richardson and our author are not the first, who without understanding the Linnæan arrangement, have ventured to deride it. They know little of Linnæus or his works, who think that he did not see the advantages likely to result from an intimate knowledge of the medical and economical uses of plants; to these he constantly endeavoured to turn the attention of his followers, and if our authors will take the trouble of looking at the numerous works of Linnæus, they will certainly be convinced of the impropriety of their sarcasm.

In page 6. it is asked, how the Reviewer became acquainted with the subject so well as to contradict the practice of Dr. Richardson? This appears a curious question! At page 9. the Reviewer is taxed with "not understanding Dr. Richardson's plan," which neither accelerates nor retards the consumption of turf bog, as fuel, in the slightest degree; it merely teaches us by Fiorin culture to turn our peat grounds into excellent meadow, until they shall be wanted as fuel, without injuring them or making them unfit for that purpose." If the present author had read the Review of the Memoir, he would there have seen that this part of the Doctor's plan met with our entire approbation, and we hope it will be adopted in place of the present extremely fashionable mode of improving peat bog. At page 11. it is said that the Reviewer "insinuated that the winter green food, so much vaunted, was obtained from pots of Fiorin Grass, forced in a hot house." This is a most extraordinary mistake. What was there stated was to prove that the Doctor had not hay, but grass, in a state of vegetation in his hay-loft, and we were fully convinced from the experiments there quoted, that what we conjectured from the relation of the hay making process was perfectly right. After quoting Dr. Hunter, Humbolt, and Wildenow, to prove the propriety of having vital hay, our author asks, "what advantage do we expect to derive from preferring so untoward a season?" and answers it by telling us, that the Fiorin vegetates late in Autumn, and that a crop of Fiorin hay mowed in January, will probably give double the quantity it would have afforded if cut early in September. This season we are told much pains are taken to decide the question." Now this is exactly what we wish had been done before the Dr. had laid before the public his prospectus of advantages to be derived from the culture of Fiorin. We must request our author to read again the last paragraph of our review, and he will find our opinion of Dr. Richardson's Memoir fully delivered, "that had the writer confined his praises within moderate boundaries, he might have been the means of inducing some agriculturists, to turn their attention to the cultivation of a plant, which in a suitable soil and situation, will probably reward their labours." This is still our opinion. Dr. Richardson has given too much praise to his favourite grass, while we are surprized that an English agriculturist should be so little acquainted with its good qualities, and that propensity of all cattle, to neglect grass which has arrived at a certain period of growth; the same grass which they would have eaten greedily in an earlier stage of growth, is neglected when it has lost its succulence, and apparently uninviting herbage is preferred; but, as was the case with Mrs Smith's field, should young shoots appear after a covering of manure, they would be greedily devoured. The plan of cultivating a single species of plant in meadows, or grazing fields, we have many reasons to think will never turn to advantage. All animals delight in variety, and we have often seen cattle amidst the finest grasses, regale themselves with the harsh reed grass,

(*Arundo colorata,*) and the rigid Horse-tail (*Equisetum limosum*).

We strongly suspect that Dr. Richardson, has been making his experiment all this time on two different species of grass, one the true *Agrostis stolonifera*, at Portrush, a maritime grass, and predominant in salt marshes, while the county Armagh grass, is the *Agrostis vulgaris*, a plant universally spread over the whole country, in every soil and situation, but only valuable where it gets good nourishment.

The publication now before us may be of use to the readers of the Memoir, as tending to explain more fully the Doctor's Ideas; indeed the author who has declined to put his name to the work seems so well acquainted with every particular, that we have some doubts whether it is not the Dr. himself. Be this as it may, we wish he had been more explicit relative to what it mentioned at page VIII. Does he wish us to believe that, the Memoir presented by the Literary Society is not the third edition? We can however only account for its publication, (as well as that of Mr. Gay Lussac's Journal, which had appeared so long before,)* by the extreme Modesty of the Members in appearing before the public. It is therefore not without pleasure we find that they have at last got over their diffidence, and given a Memoir at once original and instructive, to which we now gladly turn our attention.

*Tillock's Philosophical Magazine, Vol. 21, p. 220.

ANCIENT LITERATURE.

ON THE ROMAN HEROIC POETS.

(Translated from the French of La Harpe.)

THE works of Virgil are intelligible to a greater number of readers than those of Homer, because the knowledge of Latin is much more common than that of Greek. Virgil, in the original tongue, is early put into the hands of every student. Hence, the learned world have long decided on his merits and faults. Of the Eclogues and Georgics, this is not the place to speak; I shall here confine myself to some observations on the Æneid. The imperfection of this poem, and the perfection of the Georgics, are a proof of the immense difference which exists between the best didactic poem, and this great creation of the Epic. On turning from the study of Homer to that of Virgil, what strikes us most is, the veneration bestowed on the Greek by the Latin poet. Though we had never been told that Virgil was an adorer of Homer, to such a degree as to be named the Homeric (*Homericus,*) the perusal of this work would suffice to convince us of it. He follows him step by step; but we know that thus to transfer the beauties of a foreign language, has always been considered as one of the triumphs of genius; to judge of its difficulty we need only recal to mind the saying of Virgil that it would be easier to deprive Hercules of his club, than to take a line from Homer. He himself has, nevertheless, taken a considerable number; and in his translation, though he does not always equal, he sometimes surpasses his original*.

The first fault to be remarked in the Æneid, is, the character of the hreo;

* No blame should be imputed to Virgil for translating Homer as he has done; Latin critics have condemned him with greater justice, for having borrowed from his own countrymen: that he has been guilty of plagiarism with respect to them, cannot be doubted, when we see the many quotations of lines borrowed by him, not only from Pacuvius, Ennius, Accius, and Suevius; but even from his most illustrious co-temporaries, such as Lucretius, Catullus, Varius and Furius. None of the works of the two last of these have come down to us. The former of them, however, is known to us by the eulogium bestowed on him by Horace, who speaks of him as having a talent peculiarly adapted, to heroic poetry.

———*Forte epos acer*
Ut nemo Varius ducit.

None has exhibited bolder genius in heroic verse, than Varissus.

and here we may see how much Lamotte and his party are mistaken, when they blame Homer for the moral imperfections of his hero, and how much better Aristotle judged, when he pointed out these imperfect characters in morality, as the best in poetry. It must be confessed, that not even the slightest fault can be attributed to Eneas; he is, from one end of the poem to the other, absolutely irreproachable; but at the same time being never impassioned, he never inflames the reader, and the frigidity of his character spreads itself through the whole poem. He is almost always either in tears or at his prayers. He calmly suffers himself to be beloved by Dido, and as calmly quits her, at the Deity's command. This is very religious, but not at all dramatic, and Aristotle gives us to understand, that heroic poetry should be animated with the same passions as tragedy, when he says, that most of the rules which apply to the latter, are also essential to the former. We may therefore conclude that this great principle of Aristotle has been fully confirmed by experience, since the two best chosen, and best conceived heroes of epic poetry among the ancients and the moderns, Achilles in the Iliad, and Rinaldo, in Jerusalem Delivered, are impassioned tragic characters. The latter of these is partly modelled on the former, he is equally brilliant, fierce, and impetuous. Such ought to be the heroes of poetry, such therefore, always bear off the palm. Eneas would not have succeeded better in the theatre than in the epic.

It is generally agreed that the proceedings of the first six books of the Eneid are very nearly what they ought to be; unless we acknowledge, that after the great effect produced by the fourth book which contains the loves of Dido, the description of the Games with which the fifth is filled, however beautiful in itself, tends in some measure to check the reader's ardour; but he is well recompensed by the succeeding book, in which is the descent of Eneas to the infernal regions. But the plan of the last six books is generally condemned: here it is that we look for the greatest effect, in conformity to the rule, that all should increase as it advances; as Homer has so happily exemplified in the Iliad. It is here that Virgil unfortunately sinks below both himself and his model. The foundation of a state which was to be the cradle of Rome; a young princess whom a stranger, announced by the oracle, claims from her betrothed husband; the different nations of Italy siding with either of the rivals; all seemed to promise action, emotion, circumstances and interest. Yet, instead of all we have a right to expect on such

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Virgil could not say, as Moliere did, when he made use of a good saying taken from a pitiful poet, "I seize on my property wherever I meet it." The greater part of these thefts of Virgil are hemistichs or even entire lines of singular beauty, some of which he has taken from the old poets during the times of the Punic wars, and in particular from Ennius: we also know that Virgil made no secret of it, since he boasted "that he extracted gold from the Dunghill of Ennius." *Dunghill* let it be; we can believe, from his remaining fragments, that a false taste infected his style; and the more so because the language was not yet thoroughly refined; but the number of happy and truly poetical expressions with which he has supplied Virgil, prove that Ennius was possessed of the true spirit of poetry, and above all, with a feeling for imitative harmony, and fully justifies the species of veneration offered to him by the great Scipio, whose mind was too much enlightened not to admire in Ennius something more than the mere commemoration of his exploits.

Virgil did not conceal that he had followed Theocritus in his Eclogues and Hesiod in his Georgics; He himself makes this acknowledgment to these writers, even in the works in which he has left them, particularly Hesiod, far behind. But it is not so commonly known that the second book of the Æneid so universally admired, is copied almost word for word, *pene ad verbum* (this is the expression of Macrobius) from a Greek poet called Pisander, who had written a collection of Mythological stories in verse. Macrobius speaks of the theft, as of a thing known to every one, even to children, and of Pisander as a poet of the first rank among the Greeks. There is every reason to believe him to be so, if the original of the taking of Troy be really his, and it is difficult to doubt of the fact after the assertion of Macrobius. In this case, the loss of the works of Pisander ought to be ranked among so many others which excite our useless regret.

a subject, what do we find? A king Latinus who is not master in his own kingdom, and seems to have no will of his own; who, after having given the Trojans a hospitable reception, suffers his Queen Amata and Turnus to make war on them; while he avoids any interference by shutting himself up in this palace. One Lavinia who is scarcely mentioned, a nominal mute character; although it is on her account that the war is undertaken. The Queen, after the defeat of the Latins, hangs herself on a beam in the palace; and Turnus is at length killed by Eneas, while we feel it impossible to be warmly interested either in the victory of the one or the defeat of the other. Such is the subject of the last six books; it follows that in invention, characters and arrangement, the imitator of Homer is left far behind.

As to his battles, he merely abridges and contracts those of Homer, whom he translates in every part, He has less expansion, yet less fire. He moreover suffers under a striking disadvantage, arising from the very nature of the subject. The war of Troy was so memorable an event in the history of the world, of which it still makes one of the principal epochs, that all those who distinguished themselves in it, occupied a place in the memory of men. They were names consecrated by fame, in every body's mouth, and, as it were familiar to the imagination. Nothing is so favourable to a poet as names which interest of themselves, and this interest is partly extended to the first six books of the Æneid, where we again meet with the actions and names already immortalized by Homer. But from the commencement of the seventh book, Virgil leads us into a new world, and introduces us to characters totally unknown, with whom, according to the plan he has adopted, we have few opportunities of becoming acquainted. We may thence perceive that there is much difference, in bringing on the stage Ajax, Hector, Ulysses, and Diomede, instead of Messapus, Ufens, Tarchon, and Mezentius. It is well known that Virgil wished to flatter both the Romans and Augustus, the former by the fable of their descent from the Trojans; the latter by the double relation which he establishes between Augustus and Eneas, as founders of empires and legislators. But it is no less true, that Homer, in recording the siege of Troy, has chosen the most celebrated subject then known in the world; and that Virgil, wishing to celebrate the origin of Rome, as he declares in the first verse of the Æneid, is obliged to plunge into the antiquities of Italy, which were as obscure as those of Greece were famous. It is evident that Virgil must lose by the contrast; the heroes of Homer are the heroes of all nations, of all theatres; we are accustomed to view them on the stage with the deities, to whom they do not appear inferior by the comparison. The battles of the Iliad exhibit the grandest spectacle, we imagine we see Europe and Asia engaged; those of the Æneid, on the contrary, seem to be the skirmishes of some obscure tribes. Virgil has endeavoured to excite our interest for the young Pallas, the son of Evander; for Lausus, the son of Mezentius, snd for Camilla, queen of the Volsians. But an interest, transient as it is and purely episodical, directed towards characters whom we see but for a moment, cannot supply the place of that general interest which ought to animate the whole machine of the heroic poem.

Such is the decision which the rigid justice of posterity has formed on the failings of the Æneid; yet, in spite of all his faults, the remaining merits of Virgil are sufficient to entitle him to the name of prince of latin poets, which he has received from his own age, and to the admiration bestowed on him by posterity. The second, fourth and sixth books are three grand pieces, universally considered as the most beautiful and completely finished specimens of heroic poetry that any nation has been able to produce. That of Dido in particular is solely the author's; he had no model; and it is, in this respect, singular among all the relics of antiquity. These three admirable books, the episode of Nisus, and Euryalus, that of Cacus, that of the funeral of Pallas, and that of Eneas' shield are master-pieces of the art of painting in verse. What completes the character of Virgil, is his constant perfection of style, which is such that it seems impossible for man to go beyond it. It is at once the admi-

ration and the despair of all who cultivate poetry. If, therefore, he has not equalled Homer in invention and richness of thought, he has surpassed him in the beauty of particular parts, and in the exquisite taste displayed in all his details. Let us not, therefore, regret that nature has not lavished all her gifts upon one; let us rather admire the astonishing variety of her gifts, the inexhaustible abundance which always promises new food for genius, new titles to glory, and new sources of enjoyment to mankind.

Silius Italicus, who was consul the year of Nero's death, and died in the reign of Trajan, has imitated Virgil, as Duché and Lafosse have imitated Racine. We have not an epic but an historical poem of his, in sixteen books, the subject of which is the second Carthaginian war. He scrupulously adheres to the order and detail of the facts from the siege of Saguntum to the defeat of Hannibal, and the subjection of Carthage. He moreover exhibits neither invention nor fable; unless it be that he sometimes introduces Juno with her ancient hatred of the decendants of Eneas, and her ancient love of Carthage. But as this produces nothing but some unnecessary speeches, the whole is nothing more than a gazette in verse. The diction is thought to be pure, but it is weak and humble. His admirers can point out but a few lines worthy of remembrance, and even of these the most beatiful are borrowed from the prose of Livy. Silius possessed one of Cicero's country seats, and another near Naples, in which was Virgil's tomb; the procuring of these was not so difficult as the imitation of either of those great men.

The title of Statius's Thebaid, a poem, in twelve books, the subject of which is the quarrel of Eteocles and Polynices, which terminates in the death of both, announces an unhappy choice of a subject. What interest can be excited by two wretches, subjected to their father's curse, and accomplishing by their crimes and mutual slaughter, the malediction which they have so well deserved? Statius, by his bombast, monotony, and bad taste is much more tiresome and disagreeable than Silius Italicus, though he possesses more spirit, and displays some sparks of genius. The best part of his book is the battle of the two brothers, with the circumstances which precede and follow it, which form the subject of the eleventh book. For though the author does not change his natural style of strained declamation, he has some traits of strength and beauty. Statius, notwithstanding, enjoyed a high reputation during his lifetime. Martial informs us that all Rome was in motion to hear him, whenever (according to the custom of those days) he recited his verses in public: and that the reading of the Thebaid was a feast to the Romans. This would suffice to prove the corrupt taste of that age. He lived under Domitian. At the conclusion he addresses his muse, warning her not to aim at rivalling the *Divine Æneid*, but to *follow it at a distance, and to adore its traces.* His muse has punctually obeyed him. He does not fail to promise himself immortality, and to reckon on the honours which will be bestowed on him by posterity. It would have been better to have confined himself to the applauses of his own age than to have appealed to ours. It is true, his poem has descended to us: time, which has destroyed so many of the writings of Livy, Tacitus, Sophocles, and Euripides, has respected the Thebaid of Statius. Thus, during a long series of ages of ignorance, chance has drawn from the dust worthless writings, while it covers, and will perhaps for ever cover the masterpieces of antiquity. Yet, this is not the immortality held forth by the muses; of what consequence is it, that it is proclaimed through all ages that Statius is a bad poet. His writings are known only to a few men of learning, who wish to form a just idea of all that has been transmitted to us from the antients.

We may say the same of the declaimer Claudian, who lived under the sons of Theodosius. He has composed some satyrical or heroical poems, whose harmony resembles that of a clock, always striking the same chimes. Some of his verses are still quoted; among others the beginning of his poem against Rufinus. But in general, he is one of those inflated versifiers, who, though they always make use of sounding words, never fail of being tiresome. A judgment of his style may be formed from the beginning of his poem on the Rape of Proserpine.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

LET us be permitted to premise an observation or two, before we give the political retrospect of this month. The matters of fact which it presents are melancholy. It has proved fertile only in misfortune, and we wish, as long as we are able, to avert our eyes from a detail, which it is our painful duty to perform.

For receiving the full effect of a picture, there is a particular point of view, where the spectator is most advantageously placed, not so near as to render the colours overcharged, and by forcing the eye to dwell on parts, to lose the general impression and unity of the piece, nor yet, at such a distance, as to make the whole confused, by an indistinctness of vision. It is thus, that we are placed before the grand moving picture of the times, as we think, in a fortunate point of view. Ireland is *our* station. We have sometimes imagined, that the most of our periodical writers are placed too near to the picture; so near as to form in-

deed, a very passionate judgment of partial merit or demerit, of this or that figure, of this or that head, but not an unbiassed opinion of the whole, much less of the plan and object of the grand designer.

United, as we happen to be, with Great Britain, we would not yet be supposed so much *one*, as not to retain at least, an independence of thought. In losing so much of our political existence, we have not yet entirely lost our personal identity. We have indeed read of a whimsical illusion of the imagination, in a person who fancied he had lost his head on the scaffold, which had been thrown among the heads of many other victims, and that the judges having ordered them to be restored to their respective owners, the gentleman who managed that business, in consequence of an unfortunate mistake, had placed upon this poor man's shoulders, the head of one of his companions which he carried about, with no small reluctance. As for ourselves, we are not yet so perfectly assimilated with the selfish passions and prejudices of our neighbours, as implicitly to believe that every one of us has an Englishman's head placed upon his Irish shoulders. Whatever it may come to, we are not as yet sensible of such malconformation; but seeing with our own eyes, hearing with our own ears, and judging by the dictates of our own understandings, we conclude that our situation, apart and retired as it is, may be more favourable to fair political observation and speculation, than if we were placed nearer to the capital, or transformed into a blow-pipe of the passions and prejudices of English parties. IRELAND IS OUR STATION. Here we firmly fix our feet, and here plant our affections. It is through the medium of Ireland, we look at the world, and in reference to her, we make either retrospect of the past, or form prospect of the future.

Let *us* not be blamed for using this stile of sentiment and expression. It is on *Great Britain* rests the responsibility of keeping up most impolitic and invidious distinction. With every true Irishman, with every ingenuous Englishman, we have deeply to lament that the incorporating union, has hitherto proved so inoperative in the purposes it professed, and that however the power of the sovereignty may seem to have been consolidated by the measure, the people continue unequally partitioned. We shall ever speak in this insulation of sentiment and feeling, until there be a FAITHFUL UNION, a real assimilation of the countries, in spirit as well as in form, not merely in virtue of parchment, but in the cordial intercommunion of a common country, a country in the *full developement of the term*, a paternal sovereignty, perfect identity of rights, equality under the law, and reciprocal utility. As the Scotchman has gradually melted into the North-Briton, so may the Irishman into the West-Briton, if government, whatever may be the cost, do not linger in taking out a policy of hazardous insurance, and if the good sense of an English public can shake off the panic of being invaded, and overrun by the potatoe population, with the Pope at its head. We are too sensible of the peril in which these countries are at this moment placed, not to warn the people of England that there is not a word more dangerously delusive than that of *union* without assimilation, or an *incorporating* union, without full and complete emancipation of the great *body* of the people. The people of Ireland are made of that metal that will never amalgamate, without due respect both to the intrinsic qualities, and proportion of the mass.

There is however, a consolation which we are willing to derive even from the calamities of the times. The uses of adversity are often great to nations, as well as individuals, and it would indeed be to extract "a jewel from the head of this toad, ugly and venomous," if the pressure of our reverses abroad, would lead all parties at home into a selfish sense of common danger, and if the approaching parliament would as soon as possible, resolve itself into a committee (in both houses) on the state of the nation, and the most effectual means of more perfectly accomplishing the union between the countries, into one empire, one country, one constitution; the constitution purified, the country patriotic, and the empire all-powerful, might then be confident against the world in arms. Aloof, as we are, from party or perso-

mal ambition; equally indisposed to pay an early court to the Catholic, or to flatter the Protestant to his own destruction, equally inimical to a Protestant or a Catholic politico-religious dominancy, we best approve our loyalty to King and Constitution, in saying that the union will prove nominal, delusive, and hollow, until the complete emancipation of our Catholic countrymen. The centinels of the state may cry "all's well," but this will not conceal the real situation of things from the autocrat of France, if it be his object to divide the flank from the centre of the empire.

Until the union become really *assimilative*, we shall experience from its effects, not merely a political but a *personal* degradation, not merely a lessening of national importance, but of the value of every *individual* inhabitant of Ireland; and in no particular shall we find more reason to lament, than in its tendency to damp and wither all literary talent, and to starve the Irish press by abstracting its natural aliment, adequate rewards of genius, and of a high and honourable ambition. It is particularly against such deadening influence, that we would wish to react as far as we can in our little sphere. Conscious that no exertion is ever wholly lost, we call upon all those who believe intellectual improvement to be the best preparative for genuine liberty and unadulterated religion; we call upon modest merit, that, repelled by the coldness of the world, concentrates its genius in retirement; upon professional vacation; upon learned leisure; upon academic ambition; to exercise their different talents in this our field of

MINERVA.

"Cuncti adsint, meritæque expectent præmia palmæ,
Ore favete omnes, et tempora cingite ramis.

PORTUGAL.

In the beginning of December the sensible and the political horizon appeared alike gloomy and overcast. The King and all classes of the people, uniting in expression of disappointment at the result of the victory at Vimiera; courts of inquiry at the commencement of a campaign; generals superseded and hastening from the field to give evidence as witnesses; responsibility shifted from the ministry on the commanders, mutual disagreement on the nature and interpretation of instructions; the public prints engrossed with the acrimonious spirit of party, and the public itself soon finding reason to be dissatisfied with a court of inquiry, so constituted, appointed by the crown, unsworn itself, without authority to administer an oath to others, to compel the attendance of a single witness, or to acquit or condemn the parties whose conduct was under investigation. It appeared an incompetent tribunal for the purpose of finding out what was defective in the original plan of the expedition, or of proving what share ministry had in the unfortunate transaction, but considered in the light of a grand jury, it may collect a ground of information for a future parliamentary inquiry.

The public despondence must however, in great part be ascribed to its having been deceived into too sanguine expectation. A sudden and strange belief had certainly got possession of the people, that a single victory must be completely decisive of the fate of Portugal; and a causeless depression, mixed with great irritation, succeeded, when unreasonable hope became gradually dispelled, by more accurate information.

There is a great difference between beginning the campaign with a victory and ending it with one. A victory is best to be judged of by its consequences, and if a well digested plan be not previously laid down, if the combination in the head of the general do not embrace a wider circle than the actual engagement, the battle may be gained, and the event turn out unfortunate. The conquest of Portugal seems to have been contemplated too much as a coup-de-main business, without being, in proper time, apprized of the powerful means of protracted defence which the enemy still retained in his power, and which in the result, even after sustaining a defeat, placed him on equal, if not vantage ground, in the convention of Cintra. The advantages of the battle seem to have been counterbalanced by the inferiority of the British cavalry, and deficiency of horses for drawing heavy artillery necessary to act against the forts on the Tagus; by the want of artillery of a proper calibre

for such service; by the extreme badness of the roads; by the scarcity of provisions, and precariousness of a sufficient supply, when separated from the fleet, and by the want of any effective co-operation on the part of the Portuguese themselves, either in a military or civil capacity. It now appears certain that there has been a strong and turbulent party against the provisional government, established either by or for the regent, who, with a very bad grace, sends his mandate from Brazil to the merchants at Lisbon, for liberal subscriptions in defence of their city and their country. But however he may have effectually served the interests of Great Britain, by securing her future commercial intercourse with Brazil, it appears certain, that to retain his authority in his own country, a large army under Sir J. Cradock, must be maintained there from England, to restrain the disaffected, who have appeared in several places in great strength since the forces employed to expel the French, have marched into Spain. The hazard of continuing the campaign in Portugal, after the battle at Vimiera, appears at length obvious, and the positive advantages of the convention are stated to have been, the delivery of the country from the French army, and sending them to a port remote from the Spanish frontiers, the assurance of a supply of provisions from shipping in the river, which might have suffered on the coast, the release of the Spanish troops, the preservation of Lisbon, and chiefly, the accomplishment of a speedy co-operation with Spain, which was considered a principal object of the expedition, and the chief commission of its commanders. Such however, has been the disatrous termination of the campaign in Spain, that the British armies are again to concentrate in Portugal, and to make use of the very same means of defence which the French had to employ a few weeks ago, before the Convention was ratified.

SPAIN.

This great peninsula, separated so long from the rest of Europe, not more by its geographical station, than by its language, religion and government, has suddenly fixed the attention of mankind. Nations, like individuals, grow both wiser and better by mixing with their neighbours; but the political seclusion of Spain, had the effect of confirming ignorance, bigotry, and self-sufficiency. The nation has entered into a noviciate that will lesson them, not into monks, but into men.

It is probable, that from the moment, Bonaparte conceived the project of enforcing an European confederation against the commerce of Britain, he saw the necessity of completing the circle of hostility, by such a revolution in Spain, as might brace up the laxity of her government, sufficiently, to answer his purposes; and that the extinction of the Bourbon race, the elevation of his brother to the throne, and a change of dynasty, were but secondary means for the accomplishment of his grand speculation. Even his confidential minister is believed to have remonstrated against the rashness of the measure, but he might say of his master, as Curtius did of Alexander, "*unum erat temeritatis solatium, perpetua felicitas.*" He certainly, did not foresee the national resistance of Spain. But from the moment he was foiled and disappointed in his *first* attempt, from that same moment, he appears to have set all his powers in preparation for the ultimate *spring*; we may say, he *now* appears, for such was our credulity, or fatal want of communication with the continent, that, at the time, he was generally supposed irresolute and inactive. Hence it is that our disasters arise, because his plans of offence, long anticipate ours of counteraction. He has made all his combinations long before; we act here, and there, according to the call of circumstances which occur at the time, or according to the discretion of different commanders, three perhaps in three successive days; we have not had a Miltiades among them.

The great machine of a *great* army is beyond the talents, or we would rather chuse to say, the experience of British Generals. In the school of war they never rise to the *highest form*; such is the disadvantage (in this particular) of insular situation. The comprehension, and the detail of war, *upon a great scale*, its mighty

developement, and its minute detail is only to be found in a master mind, that combines the highest talents with the greatest experience, which is only to be attained *upon the continent.* He whose head is accustomed to the tactic of 100,000 men, and he who never commanded above 8 or 10,000, are Generals of a totally different order. To a mind which can give simplicity and unity of action to the vast complexity that enters into the construction of a grand army, disposing of its great divisions, guiding their simultaneous movements, and concentering their operations to one end, with the whole machinery perfect in all its parts, not impeded by this or that, want of cavalry, of artillery, of provisions, all which in their minute momentous importance, had been long premeditated and prepared, to such a mind inspiriting such a homogeneous, and harmonized mass, what effectual resistance is to be expected from incoherent juntas, allied armies that will not act together in the field, and a constant succession of Generals. Cuesta superseded and called to account, Blake giving place to Romana; and Sir J. Moore, when he returns to Portugal, about to resign the command to Sir J. Cradock, who commands in the room of Wellesley, Burrard and Dalrymple? It is a general in chief, such as Marlborough was, who can make grand combinations and obtain great results, whose powerful genius, premeditated plans, and acknowledged eminence in talent as well as rank is able to consolidate allied armies into perfect unity of action, and identity of spirit, such a man would be worth a million. This is the radical misfortune, and this in a great degree, answers the question, how comes it that we never undertake a naval expedition without success, and never undertake a land expedition without failure? Because we had a Nelson ever on the ocean, and because*** **********

Indeed, what could be expected from Spanish armies, represented by a British officer attending them, and therefore enabled to know, "as without magazines in reserve, without ardour, without union," and by one of their own Generals, who represents his inimitable soldiers, "as remaining continually in the open air, during rainy nights, most inclement weather, all without hats, and a great part without cloaths, *barefoot*, and what is more, passing whole days *without food*, without exhibiting the smallest symptom of dissatisfaction." Extraordinary soldiers indeed, but ill able in this condition we should suppose, to stand before the successive onsets of a full provisioned, and well appointed enemy. The peasantry of a country has been known to struggle through life, on such support; but soldiers cannot fight well after an endurance of such privations. The moral impulse will do little without the physical force. Brigades of butchers and bakers, are not the least efficient department in Bonaparte's armies. Indeed the want of a systematic plan previously digested, for provisioning the armies, owing in part, to the poverty of the country, in no one year producing corn for half its consumption, and in part to the want of the usual summer supplies from America, and the Baltic, in consequence of the Embargo, and the war with Russia; this, and the deficiency of cavalry, seem to have been the great causes of our military reverses. On the 19th November, the French cavalry brought from the remote parts of Germany, and beginning their march only at the end of August, were in full possession of the whole plains of old Castile and Leon, from Palencia, and Valladolid, even to the neighbourhood of Beneventi. On the selfsame day the British cavalry, brought only from the shores of Great Britain, had scarcely begun its march from Corunna, where it had not even been landed till some days after the French had begun their march from Bayonne.

Of four armies, two Spanish have been defeated and dispersed, one of them driven into the mountains of Asturias, and another scattered over the plains of Castile. Blake has in vain resisted the successive attacks of the enemy, and Castanos was lured to cross the Ebro, and to venture a battle by a stratagem in war, a hundred times repeated, and almost always with success. Two British armies, in the whole 38,000 men, merely

in consequence of this disaster, are obliged to retreat, without being able to effect a junction, without having once encountered the enemy, whose armies have advanced from the Ebro, that in its course, flanks the Pyrenees, to the Douro, which flows through the north of Portugal, and falls into the Atlantic at Oporto. General Hope who was detached to Madrid with the cavalry and artillery of Sir J. Moore's army, has fallen back upon that army, from his hazardous situation, leaving the defence of the city to the Spaniards. The defence has been a vigorous but a vain one. After a severe action at the foot of Somo-Sierra, where a Spanish force of 13,000 defended the passes of the mountains, and was defeated, the town of Madrid capitulated, and the French entered it on the 4th December. Such is the sad summary which begins, and nearly ends the campaign.

Let us now ask, whether the present explosion of Spain may, possibly, tend to the melioration of that peninsula? Never, in any part of Europe has the human being been so shackled and oppressed. From the lassitude of their long oppression; from a Catholicism, the most degraded in the Christian world; from a worship without any religion, from legions of monks, corrupted and corrupting the country; from the ghost of the horrible inquisition that still haunted humanity from the cradle to the grave ("nulla res efficacius multitudinem regit quam superstitio,") from this savage state of ignorance and bigotry, is there a hope that *man* may arise, that the *species* may advance, that the earth-quake which intermingles the strata, may bring the precious metals and useful minerals near to the surface. Let the hope of future good, in some degree, assuage the horror of future evils. Never did a country more require a political as well as religious renovation, and we cannot help contrasting, not comparing, the intolerance of its late government to that of the *Moors*, who, when in possession of Spain, granted to the Spaniards, the possession of civil employments, preserved the ancient laws of the realm in vigorous action, maintained the offices of counts and national judges, left the natives of the country an entire liberty of religion, permitted them to hold provincial synods at Cordova, so that the Spaniards enjoyed a perfect liberty of conscience, during near 400 years, under a government from Barbary. Such was the penal code of *Mahometans*."

AMERICAN STATES.

This country, now become "of high consideration" in the political world, and aiming to be a balancing power between the hostility of France and England, is itself divided into two hostile parties, the Federalists, and what may be called the Embargo party. Exasperated by the circumstances of the times, instigated no doubt by one or other of the contending powers, and more than usually agitated by the approaching election of President and Vice-president, upon which the triumph of either one or the other party depends, they mutually criminate and vilify each other. The election will be reported to Congress, that sat early in this month.

The Embargo party, which forms the great bulk of the people, particularly in the southern states, are unanimous in favour of Mr Maddison, and Mr. Clinton. The states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in which this party greatly preponderates, generally decide the fate of an election. The Federalists are said to be divided in their choice, and have, on this account also, less chance of succeeding in their object. They form, however, a very active opposition, in every possible way, to the Jefferson administration. *Its* professed principle, is to preserve the union, in an attitude alike to be respected by France, and by England, in a neutrality equally distant from direct hostility, and from a return to colonial dependence; in a national determination to make temporary sacrifices in trade, from a sense of the inestimable value of self-government, and in a necessity of a non-consumption agreement (rather than direct hostility) which may serve to protect from foreign licence and taxation, and, at the same time secure to America, her seamen, and her sovereignty. The federalist dwells, with partial success, on the interruption of trade by the continuance of the embargo, which comes so home to the feelings of a large and strongly connected description of men.

He holds out the administration as not only attached to France, but as her slave, and as completely hostile to England, who has given no just causes of offence, but only pretexts to the democrats for quarrel with a fast friend. He denounces a Jefferson who resigns his power and mixes in the crowd of his fellow citizens, as an admirer and imitator of the autocrat of France who ambitions the world. The embargo party, on the other hand, accuse the federalists of a desire to assimilate America, with European governments, only in their imperfections and abuses; to make their country powerful, in every respect, but in the power of the people; to introduce the power of a few over the many, the power of a standing army, the power of a large national debt, the power acquired by heavy taxes, and the power of renewing the closest connexion with England, for additional force, when necessary to be employed. One partizan deplores in the embargo, the impending ruin of his country; the other sees every prospect of its exciting exertions in manufactures and stimulating to internal improvement; he finds there is more capital than supposed; no want of intelligence; and he takes as a balance against temporary inconveniency, the hope of rendering America in future, really independent.

There has, however, been a late communication from America to this purport, that if the English government will repeal her Orders of Council, America will abrogate the embargo with respect to England, and if France will not annul her decrees, America will still enforce the embargo against France. We shall soon hear the event of this communication, probably in the speech of the president to the Congress. It is also asserted, on good authority, that no negotiation will be entered into on the part of the American government, until full satisfaction is made for the affair of the Chesapeake, a satisfaction which must be given in *America*; and that all negotiation for a *final* settlement of differences, must be made *in America*, so that the American Envoy has only power to make communications, and not finally to settle any thing.

America has probably reconciled herself, and is in some degree habituated to the pressure of embargo. Its effects in Europe only now are beginning to be felt, particularly in this country. Hazardous speculation will no doubt contrive means of evading, or will break through the boundaries of the law, and the long line of American coast will present frequent opportunities to an irresistible temptation. The north of Ireland is however, agitated and alarmed by the fear of wanting a proper supply of flax-seed for the ensuing year, and a meeting of linen-drapers is advertised for the purpose of petitioning the King and parliament for such an alteration in the orders of council, as may avert the danger which threatens the staple manufacture. Its state is critical and precarious.

The speech of the President, (just arrived) has announced that the overture on the part of the American government has been rejected by Great Britain, and, in consequence the embargo continues as before. It is reported, that the house of representatives, in a debate after the delivery of the speech, had voted in favour of the embargo, by a large majority. Although notice has been given of a motion for a non-intercourse bill, it seems probable that the American States will persevere in their present posture of armed neutrality, without any farther advance to direct hostility. It is now declared by authority, that the British orders of council are to be adhered to, as long as France adheres to the same system, and altho' some arrangements are hinted at, which may, in the present state of affairs, combine all practicable relief to neutrals, with a more severe pressure on the enemy, they are not to be such as to abate the spirit, or injure the principle of the orders. No step which could, even mistakenly, be construed into concession, is to be adopted, until the final failure of the French decrees be completely ascertained.

NORTH OF EUROPE.

The campaign in Finland must now be suspended by an armistice of nature. The frost will put a stop to military adventure, or commercial activity, on the shores of the Baltic; yet before its setting in, the Russians are said to be in complete possession of Finland. SWEDEN no longer is raised by the genius of its Kings, and its Ministers, to such a pre-eminence as it once maintained, in Europe, when under Gustavus Adolphus, it saved Protestantism, beat the Impe-

rial armies, and presided at the Congress of Westphalia. The present Monarch seems to possess much of the eccentricity, without the military abilities of Charles XII. RUSSIA is drawing still closer her bonds of alliance, or subservience to the designs of France. HOLLAND; its commerce and its spirit stagnate, like one of its own marshes: with a military establishment of 50,000 men, in addition to its public expenditure, and a deficit of 70 millions (livres) in the produce of taxes, it looks in vain to the event of a maritime peace, and for a last resource, to the strictest order and economy. SWITZERLAND (to go farther south) is said to have a change of constitution planned at Erfurth, in which the form of government is to be assimilated throughout all the Cantons, and at the head of the confederative system, a governor to be placed (we suppose a Marshal of France) by the great *Deliverer*; we never hear of these deliverers, but we think of the attitude of Suwarrow, who, also, called himself the deliverer of Switzerland, and during his address, kept shaking a *kind of lash* in his hand, emblematical of the liberty which he intended them. PRUSSIA, the country of the great Frederick, curtailed and circumscribed, occupies a sort of political parenthesis in Europe; AUTSRIA will not be allowed to balance much longer, between peace and war, and TURKEY or rather its Capital, suffers alternate shocks, between efforts to assimilate with the military discipline of Europe, and relapses into savage insubordination.

ENGLAND.

At the bottom of the bitter cup which the past month has presented, Humanity still thought she discovered a hope that the overtures made by the Governments of France and Russia, might, at least, have prepared the way for a negotiation. The sweet hope has vanished, in a declaration made on the part of Great Britain, that all intercourse is terminated between the contending powers; that even a prospect of peace was not only delusive, but injurious to the eventual formation of another coalition; that the proposal on the part of the enemy, "of treating for a general peace, in concert with our allies, upon the basis of the *uti possidetis*, or any other basis, consistent with justice, honour, or equality," was only a pretence of fairness and moderation; that Great Britain had connected herself with Spain, altho' not by a formal treaty, yet by engagements not less solemn and sacred, and that the government of Spain, under Ferdinand VII. must be understood as one of our allies, and a party in the negotiation; a proposition which has been rejected both by France and Russia, as inadmissible and insulting. And thus, the mortal issue is again joined between the hostile powers; on the one part, against the insurrection, on the other, against the usurpation of Spain.

In this new ground of war, all others that have been held out from time to time have sunk and dissappeared. The declaration dwells wholly and solely on the matter of Spain: it talks neither of indemnity for the past, nor security for the future; it notices only a relic of the Bourbon race; and fidelity to engagements entered into with Spain, occupy the place of what so lately interrupted negotiation—similar engagements with Russia. The cause of Spain occupies and engrosses the whole declaration. Well,—Does not even this suggest a hope, that if Spain should happen to be totally subdued, and irrecoverably lost, there may *then* be room for negotiation, consistent with justice, honour, and equality?

Strange as it may seem, Ministry, by masquing every other motive of the war, and bringing forward Spain in so prominent a point of view, have been able to render the war itself, in a much greater degree, popular, and their administration apparently patriotic. The matter is dexterously managed: the best feelings and principles of the best men in every class, have thus been voluntarily enlisted into a prolongation of the war. Parties are reconciled, opposition is smothered. The Spanish cause, says the most powerful paper of opposition, has laid *all party spirit at rest*. The Spanish influenza is the epidemic of the day, and seems only checked by the cold tidings of the last fortnight. The merchants of London have raised 20,000*l.* for the succour of Spain, and proportional subscriptions will be adopted, no doubt, in the other cities and towns of the empire.

After all, is it improper to ask, are we fully acquainted with the sentiments, and real state of the Spanish

nation; does its universal population breath one opinion? Into what parties is it divided? By letters from officers of the first distinction it is certain they have *not* met with the enthusiastic spirit, zeal, and activity which we are taught to believe, had universally animated the Spanish people. Sir J. Moore's army, in its march, only met with coldness and jealousy, owing to the pressure of their own wants, and the just apprehension that the subsistence of a great army must aggravate their necessities. If such be the behaviour to an advancing army, what will it be to a retreating one? The Spanish generals have almost all been denounced, or superseded in succession. *Since our reverses*, we seem to have come to a better knowledge of Spain. In short, *if* the energy of the Spanish people be founded on proper principles; if essential improvements in the form of government were made a primary object, to which the central junta had pledged itself; if the people had a resolute wish to emancipate themselves from the domination of a bigotted and intolerant priesthood, all of whom batten on the riches of the country, then our hearts go along with them; but, if, under the influence of such unhallowed leaders, they should even resist Bonaparte, to return into their former torpidity, to have their intellects debased, their trade and commerce shackled by the most stupid and ignorant laws and regulations, to herd with beasts of the field, to have nothing human but the form, what are we to wish in such a choice of evils? Any thing, we will answer, rather than Bonaparte in possession of the Spanish peninsula.

England, then, has pledged itself to maintain the cause of Spain by force of arms. Well, if it be so, and if Bonaparte has above two hundred and fifty thousand men across the Pyrenees, along with *himself*, was not *that* the moment which ought to have been in *forecast*, for carrying a noble blow into the vitals of France? Ought not the Duke of York to have been on the road to Paris, while Bonaparte was on his march to Madrid? Ought not another Cressy and Poictiers to have been enterprized by the sagacity and spirit of a prompt and anticipating Ministry? Is there no part of the coast of France, from Brest to Ostend, which is weaker than another, in its power of defence? would not a stroke of this sort be the most effectual relief to Spain? *But* the season was unfavourable, *but* the transports were *otherwise* employed; *but* there was a want of disposable force; and so Hanno cryed aloud in the streets of Carthage; "*But* the Alps;" "*but* Scipio in Africa," when Hannibal had melted the mountains, and was before the gates of Rome. It is not by waiting for the developement of the enemys plans, and *then*, opposing a measured resistance; but it is only by an early premeditation and sudden seizure of GREAT OPPORTUNITIES, unexpected by all but the master mind that conceives and profits by them; it is only by such means, astutely schemed and alertly executed, with the wiliness of the serpent and the wing of the eagle, that this man can be outwitted or outstripped, whose character combines the forecast of Philip, with the activity of Alexander.

But, if *Continental* warfare, on its grand scale, be found incompatible with what may be called, the natural habits of the country, or inconsistent with the limited experience of its generals, let Britain, in proper time, that is, the present time, the golden *now*, put forth, deploy all and every advantage of *insular* situation; soon will *all* become necessary. Let her anticipate, at least, in defensive war. Let her not have courted the Iberian peninsula, and now decline the Irish island. Let Catholic Emancipation be the work of your fears, if it is not to be of your wisdom, and, before the battle be joined, which is to decide, not on this or that subordinate interest, but upon national existence, sacrifice to the god of armies upon the altar of Justice. "Audendum *universis*, aut omnia singulis patienda."

IRELAND.

Of what is passing on the great stage of Europe, Ireland is a silent but not an inattentive spectator. A Yorkshire man, who was examined lately in a Dublin court of justice, declared upon oath, that he had never heard of such an event as an union between Britain and Ireland; and, perhaps, with the same truth and sincerity might have sworn, that he knew as little of a revolution in France. At this prodigy of ignorance, an Eskimaux Indian would smile; but most of our political economists would cry "So much the better."—"Ah happy Yorkshire man!

(will all those exclaim, who labour under the disease incident to the mercantile interest, a dropsy of the *chest)* Ah happy Yorkshire man! in thy fat and contented ignorance, thy soul and body, converted between the division of labour, and the pressure of taxes, into a sort of *brawn*, too callous to be stimulated by the spark of knowledge, or by the punctures of curiosity! Ah happy Yorkshire man! the extremes of society meet in thy breast; and high civilization ends at the same point of ignorance and stupidity, where barbarity begins."

The division of labour (that great discovery of philosophy, put in practice by avarice) has not, however, been pushed to such lengths in Ireland, as to make man a part of the machine; and misgovernment, which has kept the country so long idle, must now bear the consequence of its being inquisitive. Bring this country *home* to the *whole* people; they will not then be such great politicians.

We fear that most classes of people in England are as ignorant and indifferent about the state of Ireland as our honest Yorkshire man. They know more of New-Holland, than of old Ireland. We cannot, for example, conceive that Sir Arthur Wellesley, who fills at present the sinecure office of secretary to the duke of Richmond, can have got much information, or much interest about the civil affairs of this country. We declare, that when we just now read of lawless banditti in the south, as we have done from time to time since we have been able to read at all; when we just now see an account of a coroner in the county of Limerick, being obliged to protect himself by dragoons, in going to hold an inquest on a person murdered; returning without being able to effect his purpose: no jury to be found, not a magistrate, not a gentleman of any description, not an individual who could read or write, on the spot, to assist at the investigation of a notorious murder; when we view such a fretting sore of society, so long endemic in the south, without any parliamentary investigation, by commission, or otherwise, into its real causes, and specific remedy, we do declare, that, on taking up the last speech of Mr. Jefferson to Congress, we think that an incorporating union will take place between the American States and the *Indian* tribes, more expeditiously and easily in a few years, than Britain is like to do with the natives of Ireland, during the course of a century, if the same measures be not adopted in the latter case, as have been in the former.

"The *Creeks*," says the President, in his speech, "are exerting themselves to arrest offenders against the laws; and the *Choctaws* have manifested their readiness and desire for amicable and just arrangement respecting depredations committed by disorderly persons: *and generally, from a conviction, that we consider them as a part of ourselves, and cherish, with sincerity, their rights and interests*, their attachment to us is daily gaining strength, is extending from nearer to more remote, and will amply requite us for the justice and friendship practised towards them; husbandry and household manufactures are advancing among them, and they wish to be identified with us in laws and government." Legislators of Britain, listen, *in time*, to the important lesson, and profit by it, ere too late!

But if the Union has not hitherto assimilated the lowest order, how far has its professions been realized, with those of a higher rank among the Catholics, who may be supposed to have influence and authority? It has been the effort of the present ministers to impress upon the public, particularly in Britain, that however irremoveable their objections to the abstract question of Catholic emancipation, they were still determined to act upon a system, at least, in its subordinate points, practically conciliatory towards so numerous and respectable a portion of our fellow subjects; how far their conduct has coincided, let the following undeniable statement evince.

In the county of Tipperary, a county of an extensive Catholic population and influence, the great landed proprietors of which, as well Protestant as Catholic, have recorded their opinions in favour of relaxation from religious disabilities; a ministerial disrespect has been most marked, and most peculiarly felt. Since the year 1793 it has, without an exception, been the practice to appoint, at the various assizes, a certain proportion of the Catholic gentlemen of the county upon the grand jury. Even during those

years, when, from the existence of civil commotion, party union and religious acerbity prevailed, no deviation from this practice took place in the county of Tipperary. It remained, however, for the present servants of the crown to regulate their official tenure, not alone by the denial of disputed rights, but by the actual abeyance of those privileges which the Irish legislature had solemnly conferred for centuries of efficient and recognized loyalty. In that county, at the spring assives for the present year (the first assizes when the ministerial sheriffs had the return) there was but one Catholic on the grand jury; and, at the last summer assizes, that description of gentlemen were totally and most insultingly excluded. But the evil and the dissatisfaction do not terminate here. In every county south of Dublin, save Tipperary county, the high sheriffs are appointed upon the recommendation of the representatives. For reasons best known to the Irish government, the members of the county of Tipperary have not only been overlooked in such appointments, but an individual to whom the great majority of the freeholders have declared their dislike, and whose principles are notoriously hostile to the feelings of the population, is the man invested with that preference, which the constitution and its practice have confided to the proper organs of the public opinion.

When Sir Arthur Wellesley shall be more at liberty to attend to the duties of his civil situation, we may hope that he will begin to feel some sympathy for millions of his countrymen, whose only crime is an attachment to those tenets of religion, the support of which has been one of his arguments in favour of the convention of Cintra, and on the perfect restoration of which he so strenuously congratulated the bishop of Oporto.

Our Catholic countrymen have of late experienced a sort of *political* schism, with respect to a question about a royal controul over the appointment of their bishops, which has ended, by illustrating their strong attachment to the discipline of their church, and not less regard to the political independence of its pastors. The difference originated from that part of Mr. Grattan's speech on the Catholic petition of 1808, in which he said, he was authorised to declare, "that if government should come to a settlement with the Catholics, the king might have a complete negative on the appointment of bishops; that the bishops should send to his majesty, name after name, until he should approve of some one of the persons so returned to him. I said," continued he, on making this proposal, "I have authority; and I wish it to be understood in so doing; I am authorised by one appointed by the Catholic bishops, their agent for the management of their interest." In this treaty on the part of the Catholic episcopacy, the agent has been proved to have acted precipitately and prematurely; for the Catholic prelates assembled in Dublin (on the 14th Sept.) resolved against the admissibility of the *Veto* (as it is called) as inconsistent with the faith, nature, and discipline of the Roman Catholic church; and in an explanatory answer from the Catholic archbishop of Armagh, to an address from the gentlemen of Louth of that persuasion, interpreting the Veto merely as an additional security for loyalty, he says, "that although this royal controul be not contrary to the doctrine of their church, or to any practice *essentially* and *indispensably* connected with their religion; yet, its rejection seems to have arisen from the fear of such concession, being eventually dangerous; such danger being of a temporary nature, resulting from existing circumstances, not from the nature of the measure," evidently as we think, alluding to the political effects, and temporal power, which such a controul would place under the influence of the crown. The Roman Catholics at Kilkenny (Nov. 4) concur with the decision of the Prelates on this subject, at their late national Synod in Dublin, and return them an address of thanks, concluding with a confident hope that "ROMAN CATHOLIC IRELAND" has but one mind and one voice on this momentous question.

We stop a moment here to deprecate the use of the compound terms here noted, as assuming in aspect, and at best, ambiguous in purport, savouring too much of Catholic, in place of Protestant dominancy, and political exclusion. Have we not an equal right, and greater power, to call it Protestant Ireland, or Presbyterian

Ireland? On every ground of abstract right, political expediency, and particular urgency, are we friends to the cause of the *Catholics in Ireland;* but we know enough of the tendency of human nature, and enough of this portion of it, to put them on their guard against the use of expressions which may alarm the partiality of their friends, and confirm the prejudices of their enemies.

The Catholic clergy and laity have united in their meetings with a common spirit, and a large assembly lately held at Dundalk, in the county of Louth, have concluded the matter, and finally *vetoed* the Veto, both on the part of the clergy and of the people. Our limits will not suffer us to enter more fully into this question at this time; and, although, by the help of management and manœuvre, we think the election of bishops might have been so conducted, even with the Veto, as not to interfere with the necessary transmission of spiritual power from the head of the Catholic church; yet, on the political part of the question, we are decided in opinion that the Veto was in effect, and probably in its original design, a means of placing the Catholic clergy not only under the lock and key of the minister of the day, but also of locking up, and estranging the clergy from the people.

And if we were inclined to have a doubt upon this subject, we should probably be settled in our conviction by comparing, or rather contrasting with the conduct of the Catholic clergy on this occasion, the display of presbyterian loyalty, (from whatever *cause* it may proceed,) which has been lately exhibited, before a smiling public, in the address of the Presbyterian ministers in general synod assembled. "It is," say these courtly politicians, with the greatest pleasure, "and most sincere approbation, we observe, that your Majesty's government proves a sanctuary to the oppressed of other nations, a prop to the falling liberties of Europe, and a source of confidence to all those who resist the unprincipled encroachments and usurpations of the common foe of Europe. *This,* we are happy to see, resulting from the sagacity and wisdom with which your Majesty has chosen *the persons who administer the government of the empire, and the wisdom, energy,* and *magnanimity* with which the councils thereof are at present conducted." It may prove a comfort to those inexperienced in writing addresses of this sort, that should the ministry change to-morrow, and their opponents come into power, the Presbyterian clergy will not have occasion at their next meeting in synod, to alter one word of the present perennial composition.

With respect to the Catholics of Ireland, we trust that whatever differences they may have had about this subordinate subject of the Veto, they will continue embodied, and firmly united, moving in tranquil but indefatigable progress, to the consummation of their political freedom. We trust, that without implicitly confiding themselves and their cause, into the hands of particular parties, nor into the management of subtle agents, they will chiefly act from the native intelligence of their own minds, the simple policy of a sound understanding, and with a fixedness of purpose not to be warped from a seizure of present opportunity, by the cajolery of the courtier, or the procrastination of the patriot. Let them again petition parliament, with magnanimous loyalty, and with that energy of character and expression, which will show them worthy of emerging from their long and painful probation, into a life of action and glory. Let Britain be instructed in its present adversity, that the alliance of countries to be effective must be linked by mutual interest, confederation by sincere affection, and union by perfect coalition, and real association. It will be a secret consolation in the calamities which surround us, if they should prove in any degree instrumental to the emancipation of our Catholic brethern, under that Providence whose angel that "rides in the whirlwind, and directs the storm," is still an angel from HEAVEN.

PROVINCIAL OCCURRENCES.

ULSTER.

The Prelates of Ireland are soliciting government for a general privilege of franking, in common with the English bench; at present, only the two Irish Bishops who have seats in the house of

ANTRIM....*Married*...Mr. Alex. Hoy, to Miss Bradford, of Churchill. Mr. Campbell, of Thurso, Caithness-shire, to Miss Nichol of Belfast. At Ballinderry, Mr. Terence Judge, to Miss Margaret Culbert, aged 13 years and 7 months. Mr. James Kearney, late of Liverpool, to Miss Donnelly, of Belfast.

Died..At Belfast, the Rev. William Bristow, vicar general of the diocese of Down and Connor, and rector of the parish church of Belfast, aged 73. At Cultra, Mr. Wightman, wife of the Rev. Mr. Wightman, dissenting minister of Holywood. At Downpatrick, on the 3d, Mr. John Graham, Copper-smith, aged, 70. At Larne, Wm. Montgomery esq. At Belfast, aged 16 Mr. John Hart. Mr. C. Stanfield junior, aged 19. Near Belfast, Mr. R. Carmichael, Woollen Draper. Miss Eliza Dickson of Armagh. In Belfast, Mr. James Rooney. Mr. Robert Stephenson, surgeon. He was 26 years an Active, zealous, and indefatigable member of the Poor-House Committee, and surgeon to that institution. Mrs. Sturrock, wife of the Rev. Dr. Sturrock, Archdeacon of Armagh.

DOWN....*Married*...The Rev. Hutcheson M'Fadden of Newtownards to Miss Malcom of Comber. Mr. John Newell to Miss Carenduff. Mr. Alex. Clark of Rathfriland to Miss Briggs of Gillhall. At Belfast, Mr. Wm. M'Kee to Miss M'Credie. At Dunmurry, Mr. Wm. Gillyland, to Miss Craig. At Belfast, Mr. Sam. Priestley of Dublin, Mercht. to Miss Mary Ann Ireland.

MONTHLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From November 20, *till December* 20.

The weather for several weeks past has been favourable for putting in the late crops of wheat, which appear now generally accomplished.

The early sown crops have a promising appearance and will probably keep the advantage they have obtained, and prove both earlier, and more productive than the later sown grain. Very little work is now going forward in the farming line, except plowing lea grounds in some places; that part of husbandry is too generally deferred until the Spring, which occasions a great hurry of business, and if the season proves wet, frequently obliges the farmer to postpone the sowing of his spring corn till a late period, and consequently occasions a backward harvest.

If the farmers would more generally plough their strong soils before winter, it would lessen their spring work, the land would be meliorated by the frosts, and better prepared for harrowing when the sowing season comes on; this practice is very general in England and Scotland; and the advantages resulting from it have induced the farmers of those countries to persevere in it. Grain of every kind continues to bring a pretty high price; and oatmeal and flour of course keep up. Potatoes are both plenty and good in quality, which added to the circumstance of their being no demand for oats for distilling might reasonably have been expected to lower the price of oatmeal. The turnip crops have not proved equal to their appearance; and the stock of fat cattle for spring consumption it is feared will therefore fall short of the usual supply, nothing being done this year in the feeding way by the Distillers.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The commercial horizon continues to look increasingly gloomy. Shut out from the commerce of Europe and America, our prospects afford little that is promising. From this distressing commercial situation, as well as in our political state, there appears nothing that can relieve us, but peace. With unrestrained commerce, and the natural advantages of the British empire, our strength must increase in peace in the ratio of our more extended commerce, and from the superiority of our trade and manufactures, we have less rivalship to fear in peace, than in war.

The cotton trade, according to the late exposé, is said to flourish in France. To this state Irish Emigrants have probably contributed not a little; and their trade with other countries being restricted, acts as a premium on their manufactures. Our measures may also probably force America to become prematurely a manufacturing country.

At home, there is but a small quantity of cotton wool, some say not three months' stock in Great Britain and Ireland. Probably, however, occasional supplies of this article may come in time to answer the demand for the manufacture, which in Ireland being mostly confined to home consumption, must necessarily be limited, and in Great Britain the present state of things must operate against much increase in that branch of manufacture.

But the present state of the linen trade is gloomy in the extreme, if we do not receive ample supplies of flax-seed, in time for sowing in the spring. We can have no prospect of

this being the case unless the embargo in America is speedily removed.—Commercial restrictions have not hitherto been strictly enforced in Russia, but it is said that a Ukase has been lately published by Alexander prohibiting any neutral vessel from entering his ports, that he may effectually stop all intercourse with these countries. But even if flax-seed should come in now, as it did last year, from Russia, the quantity is so very small, as to afford us not much prospect of relief. Our only hopes can be in the British Ministry rescinding the orders in council, which induced America to lay on the embargo, and in reality gave potency to the Berlin decree, issued in the moment of Bonaparte's intoxication by his victory over the Prussians, but which would most probably have remained as an idle threat, if it had not been succeeded by the orders in council after an interval of twelve months; for during that period, it was proved before the House of Commons last session, that neither freight nor insurance had risen in consequence of this decree; nor had any condemnation of American vessels taken place in the ports of France within that period.

A meeting of Linen-drapers was held in Belfast, to consider of the propriety of petitioning the King in Parliament on the alarming situation of the linen trade, but the question was almost unanimously carried against any interference, on the alleged ground, that any public measures would spread an alarm, and occasion speculation; impede the measures of government, and encourage the Americans to persist in the embargo; although it was shown in reply, that the danger was already known, so that no risque could arise from publishing it, as both the speculators at home, and the Americans, were already sufficiently acquainted with the state of things, and that it was the duty of the people to remonstrate with the government, and inform them of such circumstances as their local knowledge afforded them the best opportunities of knowing. An appeal was afterwards made to the trade at large, and a meeting of the linen-drapers of the north of Ireland summoned to meet at Armagh on the 27th instant.

A meeting at Armagh naturally recals the recollection of the meetings of linen-drapers held there in 1782, and a contrast is made between those and the present times. If the same *apathy and extinction of public spirit* had prevailed then, that actuated the meeting at Belfast, the linen-drapers of Ireland might probably at this day have been groaning under an iniquitous oath of office, and their freehold properties been in subjection to the linen board, in consequence of warrants to acknowledge judgments being annexed to their bonds, as brown and white seal masters. In that day they resisted in a legal and constitutional manner, spoke their sentiments plainly and unequivocally, and the obnoxious measures were laid aside. There is a conscious satisfaction in doing our duty, which even the want of success does not remove; and when individuals do all they can, by raising a warning voice against impending danger, they can afterwards meet the hour of trial with calm composure, and resignedly submit to those inconveniences which they honestly exerted themselves to ward off.

On the day appointed, the meeting was held, but was not numerously attended. For a detail of the proceedings, we refer to page 401, by which it will appear that the original plan to address the King and Parliament was negatived, and the mode of private application was adopted. Time will decide on the propriety of the alternative, but it should also be taken into consideration that the policy of the measure must be determined by what we know at present, and not by the uncertain contingency of a change in the councils of America. At the meeting at Armagh, a great part of the majority was composed of the *trained-bands* of the commission buyers of the linendrapers of the neighbourhood of Belfast, while it was refused to permit a large body of weavers who were present, to vote, though they were as much interested in the result of the business, as the other class, or as the most wealthy in the trade. The *poor man's all* is of as much consequence to him as the wealth of the rich. It may also be remarked that no pains were taken to marshall the opposite ranks, nor to counteract the schemes of an active canvas, which the opponents of the petition commenced. However, notwithstanding these disadvantages to the minority, the result of the meeting may, most probably, be considered as a fair specimen of the public spirit of the north of Ireland; taking in those who attended, and those who from *apathy*, staid at home, at a time when a matter of such importance to the welfare of the linen trade, and to this country at large, was agitated. In this point of view, to draw a metaphor from the state of the weather of late, to be recorded in the ensuing Metereological Report, *public spirit* is several degrees below the freezing point.

Exchange has kept pretty stationary during the course of this month in Belfast, being from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, and the discount on bank notes $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$. Exchange in Dublin was at one time so low as $7\frac{1}{4}$, but has lately risen to $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. This circumstance strongly points out the deficiency of our importations, owing to the restriction of hostile nations on commerce. It also shows the fallacy of those theoretical reasoners, who a few years ago asserted that the high rate of exchange at that time, was solely owing to the

extended issue of bank paper. It could not be the sole, and perhaps not the principally efficacious cause of the high rate, because with a more extended issue of paper, exchange has regularly been considerably lower, and we have lately seen it in a bank note currency under par.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from November 20, till December 20.

Barometer.....highest		30	4	Thermometer.....highest		51	0
lowest		28	8	lowest		28	0
mean		29	0	mean		37	30

Synochus,	4	Of a mixed nature between inflammatory and typhus fever.
Typhus mitior,	6	Nervous, or common contagious fever.
Pneumonea,	2	Pleurisy, or inflammation of the lungs.
Erysipelas	2	Rose, or Saint Anthony's fire.
Opthalmia	3	Inflammation of the eyes.
Variola,	6	Small-pox.
Perniones,	3	Kibes, or Chilblains.
Cynanche Parotidea,	1	Mumps.
Arthrodynia,	3	Chronic Rheumatism.
Psora,	6	Itch.
Herpes,	2	Ringworm, or Tetter.
Hypochondriasis,	1	Hypochondriac disease.
Dyspepsia,	2	Indigestion.
Asthema,	3	Nervous debility.
Colica Spasmodica,	2	Cholic.
Phthysis Pulmonalis,	2	Consumption of the lungs.
Asthma,	3	Asthma.
Hæmoptysis Catamenialis	1	Periodical spitting of blood.
Catarrhus,	4	Common cold.
Epilepsia Cerebralis,	1	Convulsions, or Falling Sickness.
Oneirodynia Gravans,	1	Nightmare.
Hysteria,	2	Hysterics.
Scrophula,	4	King's Evil.
Hydrocephalus internus,	1	Dropsy of the Head.
Dysuria Mucosa,	1	Gravel.
Dysenteria,	1	Bloody Flux.
Gonorrhœa, *Syphilis*,	8	Venereal Disease.
Morbi infantiles,	1	Febrile and bowel complaints of Children.

Since our last Report, the great and sudden vicissitude of atmospheric temperature might be naturally expected to produce a new train of diseases, or at least to vary the type and characters in some degree of such as were then common; this, however, does not appear to be the case, if we except the increased number of catarrhs and the prevalency of chilblains, which may be legitimately referred to the influence of cold, by inspection of our list, both of the opinion will be corrected, that contagious fever is neither so frequent nor so malignant in cold as in warm weather; for there Typhus will be seen to hold a more conspicuous character than usual. And indeed, as far as the Reporter's observations enable him to judge, it is more common than at any period during these last six years; that cold should have little effect in giving the living body a degree of insusceptibility to contagious fever is not to be wondered at, when we reflect that the human temperature is uniformly ninety-eight degrees by Farenheit's Thermometer, let the subject of experiment be placed either in Spitzbergen or Borneo. From a knowledge of which fact, we can readily perceive why cold chiefly exhibits its effects on the mucous membranes of the nose and throat, in the production of Catarrh, and on the skin in the case of chilblains, all of which parts may be termed exterior surfaces of the body, for the nose and throat are equally subject with the skin to the influence of cold or warm air. When death takes place from cold, as often happens in snow storms, the torpid state of the surface of the body enables the unfortunate sufferer at first to make a greater exertion than usual, of the locomotive muscles without fatigue; but by this encreased exertion, there is an inordinate expenditure of the vital, or sensorial power, which brings on a paralytic state, in which the blood is accumulated in undue quantities in the heart and brain, and by compressing the latter, produces drowsiness and stupor, and ultimately death; verifying the prediction of a learned traveller (Dr. Solander) to his companions previous to their ascending a high mountain, viz. "*If ye sleep, ye die.*". Where the fingers

are benumbed, or frost-bitten, it is much better to bathe them in very cold water, or even snow and water, than to hold them near a fire; for during the torpid state, there is an accumulation of the sensorial or vital principle, which, when the cold is removed, excites such heat and pain, as, in many instances, to produce high inflammation, and sometimes even mortification.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From November 20, till December 20.

It is often within the power of man to exercise a portion of benevolence, while philanthropy confines kindness to our own species, the divine attribute of benevolence extends to every living creature, and calls to us to alleviate their sufferings. While snow covers the earth, and frost binds up the waters, the feeling heart must pity the distress and strive to give comfort and sustenance to the winged inhabitants of the air, whose lively motions interest, and whose music adds a charm to the rural scene.

Many, driven from their native wilds by the inclemency of the season, seek the plains of Ireland in hopes of finding that comfort which their own country denied them, but scarcely are they arrived, fatigued with the length of their journey, and weak from want of food, ere they experience new calamities. In vain do they seek the silent wood, or trust to generosity for protection, no pangs are felt by the greedy epicure or thoughtless sportsman when innocence and beauty die. It is to innocence and beauty they call for protection, let the youthful hand scatter food and they will give life and happiness to hundreds. Let them guard their rural walks against all destroyers of the feathered tribes, and the consciousness of having done a good action will make the music of the groves awaken ideas which the virtuous alone can enjoy.

Nov. 22. That beautiful evergreen Ivy *(Hedera Helix)* which gives to the venerable ruin a pleasing gloom, and picturesque effect, is now going out of bloom and its flowers are giving place to its black berries which ripen through our coldest winters, and afford a grateful food to Thrushes, Blackbirds &c.

The Thrush and the common Wren continued singing, during mild days, until the 17th of December.

So uncommonly warm was the weather before the 17th, that on the 9th, a Nettle Butterfly (Papilio Urtica) appeared, and on the evening of the 10th, Bats were flying about; Heart's ease (Viola tricolor) was in flower, Hepaticas (Anemone hepatica) Primroses (Primula vulgaris) and Black Helebore (Heleborus niger) were expanding their flowers.

On the 20th about Sunrise the clouds exhibited those beautiful tinges of colour so much admired in Italian pictures, and the golden red mistyness through which the distant landscape appeared gave an idea of the glowing atmosphere of a Southern climate.

METEOROGICAL REPORT.

From November 20, till December 20.

Heap on more wood! the wind is chill;
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.
Each age has deem'd the new born year
The fittest time for festal cheer. SCOTT'S MARMION.

During the same period last year we experienced the severest frost that had been known for several years. It began on the 10th of November by a slight Frost which increased gradually to the 22d, when the Thermometer at 9 A. M. stood at 17; at 9 P. M. it was at 26½ from which time it was not observed lower than 24. During that time the ground was on the 27th of November, covered regularly over with snow to the depth of six inches, and on the 9th of December, a solid sheet of Ice covered the Channel from the quay of Belfast to below the dry dock. This season we have had on the

21st of November . . Brilliant, with showers.
22, ... Misty rain—throughout the day.
23, ... Mild pleasant day—with slight showers.
24, ... Mild dark pleasant day.
25, ... Misty rain.
26, ... Dark breezy Morning—misty rain.
27, ... Very wet night, misty wet morning until 1 P. M.
28, ... Misty day; ice in the Morning ¼ of an inch thick.
29, ... Wet night, very misty morning, afterwards a wet day.
30, ... Windy, Brilliant, with showers.

1st December, . . Breezy, Brilliant, with showers.
2, ... Same.
3, ... Very stormy wet night. Brilliant breezy day, with showers.
4, ... Brilliant pleasant day.
5, ... Rain in the night, moist warm day.
6, ... Stormy and showery.
7, ... Cool clear, and showery.
8, ... Mild pleasant day with a trifling misty shower.
9, ... Dark wet calm day.
10, ... Fine mild day,
11, ... Misty dry day.
12, 13 . . . . . Dark dry pleasant day.
14, ... A trifling shower, towards the latter part clear and cold.
15. . . . . Hoar frost in the morning, and thin ice; mild pleasant day.
16, ... Ice about ¼ of an inch thick—snow falling—ground covered about 2 inches deep by 3 P. M.
17, ... Squalls with large flakes of snow through the day.
18, ... Snow showers through the day.
19 . . . . . Feeble sun shine—Wind north and boys on the ice.
20, ... Pleasant frosty day.

The variation of the Barometer has been very trifling, on the 2d of December it was at 8 A. M. 28.8; during the rest of the time, it ranged from 29.1 to 30. but was on the 15 December as hgh as 30.4.

On the 5th of December the Thermometer at 8 A. M. was as high as 51, and on the 20th as low as 24, but the whole period may be reckoned warm for the season.

The wind was observed in the Northern points 12 times, in the southern 15, Eastern 3, and Westerly 26.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA,

FOR JANUARY, 1809.

First, the Moon passes the meridian at 36 min. past 11 o'clock, P. M. having been full 30 min. past nine but without an eclipse; at this time we may observe around her many beautiful stars, but whose brilliancy is diminished by her superior splendor; almost south of her a little west of the meridian is the 3d. star of the Twins, and considerably south is Sirius, the brightest star in the heavens; Orion is near the meridian on the same side. On the East we may see Castor and Pollux, Procyon, Alphared, Regulus, Denebola, Cor Caroli, &c. forming, if the night be clear and frosty, a beautiful sight even to the superficial observer, but much more so to the Astronomer.

Fifth, She passes our meridian at 5 min. past 2 A. M. at which time Regulus is a little north west of her, Denebola, in the Lion's Tail, north east and Spica in the Virgin at a greater distance south east, and at midnight she is distant from this star 47° 32′, and from Pollux 44° 25′.

Tenth, she rises in the morning at a considerable distance under the first star of the Virgin, and Mars having passed near this star about noon on the 9th, she is soon followed by Herschell, who is now near the first of the Balance and towards which she is now directing her course.

Fifteenth, She passes the meridian at 37 min. past 11 A. M. and on the 16th is new Moon at 46 min. past, 0 A. M.

Twentieth, The two beautiful planets, Jupiter and Venus, are considerably below the Moon at 6, she is 56° 7′ from Aldebaran and 58° 46′ from the Sun.

Twenty-fifth, She passes the meridian, at 58 min. past 6, P. M. being near the line between the Pleiades and Aldebaran, the former stars being above her to the west and the latter below her to the east of the meridian, at 6, she is 52°. 4′ and at 9, 50° 38′ from Pollux,

Thirtieth, She passes the meridian 2 min. past 11, P. M. having above her the two small stars in the Nebula in the Crab, in and below her the small stars in the head of Hydra, but her superior splendor will scarcely permit them to be seen.

Mars is in his superior conjunction on the 19th, and of course is too near the sun to be seen.

Venus and Jupiter are evening stars; the brilliancy of the former during this month cannot fail to arrest the attention of the curious, particularly on clear frosty evenings; The latter still appears very beautiful.

Mars, passes our meridian on the 1st at half past 5 A. M. and on the 25th at 25 min. p. 4.

Saturn is a morning star, he passes our meridian on the 1st, at 39min. past 8 A. M. and on the 25th at 5 min. past 7.

Herschell is a morning star and is on the meridian on the first at 17 min. past 7 A. M. and on the 21st at 31 min. past 6.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. Emersions.				2d SATELLITE. Emersions.				3d SATELLITE.				4th SATELLITE.			
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M	S.	DAYS.	H.	M	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S
1	7	54	33	4	2	22	30	7	19	11	9 Im.	14	18	5	36 Im.
3	2	23	36	7	15	40	21	7	22	8	36 E.	14	21	14	19 E.
4	20	52	30	11	4	58	14	14	23	13	32 Im.	31	12	27	42 Im.
6	15	21	32	14	18	16	7	15	2	9	56 E.	31	15	26	28 E.
8	9	50	26	18	7	34	2	15	3	15	50 Im.	*First Satellite Continued.			
10	4	19	28	21	20	51	53	22	6	11	14 E.	20	19	13	6
11	22	48	20	25	10	9	51	29	7	18	26 Im.	22	13	41	58
13	17	17	21	28	23	27	43	29	10	12	53 E.	24	8	10	57
15	11	46	15									26	2	39	48
17	6	15	14									27	21	8	46
19	0	44	7									29	15	37	37
												31	10	6	34

* Look to the right hand.

MEETING OF LINEN-DRAPERS AT ARMAGH.

The following account has been transmitted to us by a person who was present, and who conceived that an impartial statement of the proceedings should be published, as a register of public opinion, on a highly important subject, and as a memorial of the passing events of the day. If any inaccuracies should be discovered, the writer requests they may be attributed to the difficulties necessarily attendant on the attempt, as his wish is to give a faithful report of what was said on both sides of the question. He will, in a succeeding number, be very ready to rectify any errors which may be pointed out.

The following Advertisement appeared for a week preceding, in each of the Belfast Papers.

LINEN TRADE.

"We, the undersigned, request a meeting of the Linen drapers of the North of Ireland, at Armagh, on Tuesday the 27th instant, at twelve o'clock, at noon, to consider the alarming situation of the Linen trade, in case the usual supplies of flax-seed do not arrive from America in the spring, and of the propriety of petitioning the King and Parliament for an alteration in the Orders in Council." December, 16th, 1808.

On the 27th, the day fixed for the Meeting, a number of the Linen-drapers attended, but not nearly so many as considering the great importance of the subject, might have been expected, if public spirit had pervaded the trade.

Thomas Phelps was appointed the Chairman, and Robert Williamson was nominated to act as Secretary.

John Hancock opened the business, by recalling to recollection the memorable meetings of linendrapers, held in Armagh, in 1782, when they met to oppose some oppressive encroachments, and by their firm procedure obtained the sought-for relief. He observed, that good effects were then produced by a firm constitutional opposition, and recommended a similar manner of acting on the present occasion, which was of far more momentous concern, than the grievances at that time complained of. He never knew a more momentous crisis, or one more likely to produce a greater calamity, than must occur to this country, in case flaxseed is not received in time for next spring's sowing. The question would not then be, whether flax should be as now, at a very high price, but whether we we should have it in sufficient quantities at any price. In the latter case a stop must be put to the staple trade of this country, and upwards of half a million of its industrious inhabitants thrown idle. He hoped there might be as much flax in the country, as might serve to next harvest. He did not consider speculation so hurtful as some others might do, yet he did consider it as one of the evils attendant on the present mode of conducting war. He considered war to be, in every shape it could assume, adverse to human happiness. In battle the sword destroyed its victims, and made many widows and fatherless children. In the present policy of applying it to commerce, it was also productive of much misery. He did not like that unsubstantial honour, which is purchased at the expense of the starvation of the industrious classes of the community, and if he had not resolved not to touch much on politics, be would gently whisper in favour of *peace*. As a remedy, he thought any restriction on the exportation of flax, would be unfair in principle, as tending to throw the burthen off ourselves on others, and it was also contrary to the Act of Union. What we wanted was flax-seed. Some little might possibly be obtained from Russia, but it would be totally inadequate to supply our wants, and it was doubtful if even this small supply could now be procured, in consequence of a late order of Alexander's, forbidding the entrance of neutral vessels into the ports of Russia. To America we could

only look for any thing like an adequate supply, and this was prevented by the Embargo; which, in his view, was caused by the orders in council. The French Decree, issued from Berlin, had the precedence, but it would probably have remained an idle threat, like an order issued in the former war, by the Directory of France, if the British orders in council had not given potency to it; as they, from their naval superiority, had the power to enforce it. As a proof of the manner in which this Berlin Decree was viewed by merchants, he mentioned that it had been proved, by evidence, at the bar of the House of Commons, that neither freight nor insurance had risen till after the orders in council had been issued. From all these considerations, he thought the proper line of proceeding was to petition the King, and the House of Commons, for such a modification of these orders as might induce the Americans to remove the embargo, which he found, by the President's message to Congress, he had seen that morning, they had made an offer of doing on very reasonable conditions. He strongly deprecated the feeble policy of *whispering* in the ears of ministers, but recommended the meeting to act with firmness, though with the greatest respect, and boldly to approach the proper organs of the constitution, to lay before them their complaints, and thus give publicity to their proceedings. By pursuing such measures, they could only hope to be heard, and even if unsuccessful, they, after a firm remonstrance, would be clear of consequences, and could meet the hour of trial with fortitude and composure. He then read the following Resolutions, which he meant to propose, and concluded with moving the first one.

"Resolved.—That it appears to this meeting, that owing to the want of the usual supply of flaxseed last spring, and the deficiency of the last crop of flax, there is a defective supply of flax at present in this country.

"That, notwithstanding, we think with good management this deficiency would not materially affect the linen trade of this country, if we could look forward with reasonable expectation, to a sufficient supply of flaxseed for the ensuing spring.

"That considering the very small quantity of flaxseed now in this kingdom, and the encreasing difficulties of obtaining supplies from Russia, if we are a second year deprived of the usual quantity from America, the situation of the linen trade will, after the present stock of flax is wrought off, be distressing in the most extreme degree.

"That deeply impressed with this alarming prospect, we conceive it to be our duty to present respectful petitions to the King, and the imperial House of Commons, stating the inconveniences likely to result, if a relaxation is not speedily made in the orders in council, so that an inducement may be held out to America, to remove the Embargo in time for vessels to sail, and arrive here previously to the season for sowing flaxseed."

Joseph Nicholson seconded the motion; and observed, that he thought the resolutions were unobjectionable; he preferred to petition openly and publicly, as being likely to be attended with better success. The linen trade was of the greatest importance to Ireland, for by it many thousands of its inhabitants earned their bread, and he thought the poor would especially suffer.

John S. Ferguson rose, and deprecated public measures. He preferred private application to some members of administration, and had not as many fears as the mover of the question, who had made a similar attempt in Belfast, but met with no support; every man in the trade there disapproved of the measure. Trade was by no means at a stand; flax at present in abundance, and the present high prices of linen benefit the country; he had seen letters which stated that larger supplies were expected from Canada, from Greece, and from Sicily, and that much might be drawn from the stores of the oil-mills, in England. He considered the Embargo was unwise and impolitic, and he thought, must speedily be removed, and this was generally expected among merchants, as there was a powerful party against it in America. He thought no good would result from a petition, but it might be attended with many evils, while a private application was free from such objections, and would not create so much alarm. He had a letter prepared, which he admitted, however, went beyond his sentiments, but which, he would propose, should be presented to John Foster, as a member of the linen board, in behalf of this meeting, and which he moved as an amendment, in the place of the original resolutions; but added, if the meeting preferred to address any other member of administration, he had no predilection in favour of the one he proposed.

William Thompson seconded the motion.

Robert Williamson approved of the amendment. He expected we would suffer from the want of flaxseed, but he hoped not so greatly as was feared. He could see no advantage to be gained by petition, except to promote a change of administration, while to him it was quite indifferent who was Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer. Our petition would be certainly disregarded; for we could not expect better success than the merchants of Liverpool, and other places in England, who had petitioned parliament last session, against the orders in council. He strongly disapproved of the con-

duct of the Americans, who had not firmly remonstrated against the Berlin Decree, and who, he thought, were deficient in right feeling against the encroachments of *the man*, who lorded over the commerce of the continent of Europe, from Dantzic to Barcelona; and that this disposition still prevailed, as might appear in the miserable preaching of the president Jefferson, in his late message to Congress. The commercial morality of the Americans was not very great, and in their trade of carrying they favoured the French; he therefore wished the orders in council should be preserved in their full force, to counteract the schemes of that enemy, who was plotting our destruction, and if he had the power, would reduce us to a state of slavery, and not allow us the liberty of meeting, as we did this day, to discuss the policy of the measure. If the orders were favourable to the general interest of the empire, we, in one corner of it, could not expect a relaxation in our favour. He admitted the poor must suffer as well as the rich, but all must suffer in the attempts to repel the schemes of the common enemy.

The Chairman addressed the meeting, and requested that politics might not be introduced, as not being connected with the question, which related to trade, and which, in his view was of the greatest importance, and interested all classes of the community, from the *landlord* to the quill-boy. He had never before heard of flaxseed being brought from *Greece*, and did not expect the river St. Lawrence would be free from ice, to allow vessels to arrive from Canada in time for the sowing of flaxseed, even if they had a supply of it in that country, which he had never heard was the case, and he believed an adequate supply could only be expected from the United States. To these considerations he wished to turn the attention of the meeting, that proper means should be used, for obtaining the great object of procuring flaxseed in sufficient quantity.

Samuel Wright, (who with William Pike, had *just returned from Collon)* produced a paper, which was read by the Secretary, as the substance of a conversation they had with John Foster, in which he expressed great hopes of an adequate supply of flaxseed for the ensuing season; that some was expected from Greece, Sicily*, Canada, Holland and the Baltic; for that 150,000 hogsheads had been imported from Russia and Sweden, into England, in the course of last season.

The Secretary now introduced, and read a letter from John Foster, written to the Bann Association, expressive of his objection to any plan to prevent the exportation of flax, as being contrary to the articles of the Union, and mentioning his hopes of flaxseed being procured through the means of merchants, which he preferred to any interference on the part of government, either as importers or by bounties, which would have the tendency to counteract individual mercantile exertions.

James Christy said he was decidedly in favour of public measures, which he hoped would be seconded by those concerned in the linen trade in Dublin, and other towns in the united kingdom, and particularly in London; that he had no fears from the publicity of the measure, nor alarm that America should more fully know the state of this country. They had their Correspondents in this country, and would not acquire any additional knowledge from our proceedings. He thought the statement of the large importation of flaxseed into England last year, exceeded all bounds of credibility, and that it was improper to make application to John Foster on the subject.

William Pike supposed the statement of the 150,000 hogsheads of Riga seed alluded only to what had been imported principally for crushing, but admitted that much of it might not now be on hand.

John S. Ferguson and Robert Williamson disclaimed taking the accuracy of the statement, as the ground work of the plan they had proposed.

John Hancock requested the liberty to reply to the objections made to the Resolutions he had moved. He began by observing that he was not alarmed for consequences just at present, but if flaxseed did not arrive in time for sowing, our situation was critical indeed; for about autumn, when the present supply of flax would be wrought off, the distress would, in such a case, be especially felt. He remarked that most of the flaxseed bought for crushing was of a quality not fit for sowing, and instanced some which he bought for the use of an oil-mill in England, which if it had been sown, would have deceived the purchaser, and left him in a worse situation than if he had not sowed it at all; that one house got liberty from the linen board to sell their old seed, but the quality was so bad, that it could not be sold for sowing, even in the scarcity of last year, but was afterwards sold for crushing; and that it was fair to calculate that most of the seed sold for crushing was totally unfit for sowing; but admitting it was all brought out, and fit for sowing, it would not afford an adequate supply. He admitted his attempt at Belfast was opposed by all then present. Robert Williamson's attempt, similar to the

* To round the period, he might have added Egypt. Ancient history informs us, that this unhappy country was once the seat of the Linen Manufacture, until the *bad policy* of its rulers *and the apathy or venality* of the people extirpated it.

measure now brought forward, met with little more support. He therefore considered himself warranted in expressing his opinion that the amendment proceeding from a quarter where all attempts to do any thing were objected to, looked like an endeavour to prevent any effectual step being taken, and to fritter away what could not be directly prevented. It was like throwing a tub to the whale, to divert its attention, and by a side wind to alter the course of a vessel. He further remarked, that we had not reason to expect the embargo would in future be violated in America, in more instances than had occured during the last year, in which very few had happened, and as a proof that America had not received just ground of offence from France, by the Berlin Decree, he mentioned that he believed no instance had occurred in France, of an American ship being condemned, till after the date of the Orders in Council. He particularly objected to now addressing the same person whom the trade unanimously opposed in 1782, and who, he was convinced, would not *risk his place* in remonstrating in strong terms against any favourite measure of the present administration. He had heard nothing to cause him to alter his opinion, and therefore he was determined to persevere in his motion, though he should even have to stand alone.

Robert Williamson expected if he had moved the question at Belfast, on his plan, it might have been carried, and thought the present amendment was proceeding by a direct wind into the proper port, and concluded by again defending the Orders of Council, and by observing that a person with whom he had conversed, had recommended that in case of a private application to any of the members of administration, it should be made to them individually, lest it might be cushioned by *any* one of them. He, however, made no motion to this effect.

The question was then put on the amendment, so as to negative the original Resolutions, and was carried by a show of hands, in favour of the amendment. A division afterwards took place, by separating to different sides of the house, for the sake of more accurately ascertaining those who voted, when a similar result attended, and the address in opposition to the petitions was ordered to be signed by the chairman, on behalf of the majority. The meeting immediately dissolved; the advocates for the amendment appearing fully satisfied with defeating the original plan, did not trouble themselves with any further exertions, by appointing a committee, or taking additional measures to render their own plan efficacious. But though it consisted with their policy to leave *their own* scheme *unsupported*, the business will not thus be suffered to drop, as measures are now in a state of preparation to have the calamitous state of this country, in case of flaxseed not arriving, fairly stated to the Imperial Parliament, at its meeting, as it is expected that the policy of the orders in council will form an early and prominent object of parliamentary discussion, in which it is fitting that the distresses of the north of Ireland should be fully and explicitly made known.

We regret to find that in our last Number an Essay on Humbugging appeared, which had been previously published, with a few variations, in a late periodical publication in Dublin. It was sent to us by a Correspondent in such a form, as to induce us to suppose it was original. We request our Correspondents may not hereafter send to us any Paper which they have previously sent to a similar publication, or give us extracts from books without specifying the authors from whom they extract, to give us an opportunity of judging on the propriety of insertion, and acknowledging the sources whence such articles are borrowed. Originality of communications is essentially our aim.

We have received a Critique on "Old Nick's Pocket-book." We decline to insert criticisms thus gratuitously offered. We trust we are sufficient to do our own work in this department.

We have received a few lines in answer to the critique on Mary Leadbeater's poems, which we decline to insert. The writer was, doubtless, serious in her concluding line, though to us it conveyed an idea altogether ludicrous. Not having had the honour of knowing Edmund Burke in this world, we have formed no very high idea of the happiness of meeting him in a future state of existence. He may have been benevolent and amiable in private life. We spoke of him as a politician, and in that character he did incalculable mischief to these countries. We are now, in our heavy taxes, and in the continuance of the interminable war which he recommended, reaping the bitter fruits of his intemperate, and but too successful endeavour to raise the infatuated war-whoop. Private virtues however splendid, do not lessen political and public vices. They only make defects more glaring.

Errata.....Number iv. page 317, column 1st, line 32 from the top, for Joyce, read Jones. No v. p. 339, col. 2d, line 5 from the bottom, insert a full stop after it, and begin a new paragraph.—line 6 of ditto, for an, read Ann.—p. 368, col. 1, line 28, from the top, for Mrs. read Mr.

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